Chief justice, male crew rescued as boat sinks. PAGE 2
'Help preserve beautification projects.' PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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PH govt to assist airfare of affected Dynasty workers

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Staff of Rep. Edwin K. Propst helped bring donations to former Tinian Dynasty Hotel Casino employees at the docks in Lower Base yesterday. The donated goods will be brought to Tinian by SN-5 Shipping Company.

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI said yesterday that the dozens of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino employees without power and on rationed food are "status-less" and have not been paid money by their hotel employer for the last eight payrolls.

Honorary consul Glicerio Arago says they met with about of 50 of about more than a hundred of these Filipino employees last Saturday to "calm down our *kababayans* or countrymen" after the Commonwealth Utilities Corps., who is owed around $1.3 million by TDHC, cut power to the hotel barracks on Friday.

Arago encourages the employees, given their dire circumstances, to leave home to the Philippines.

See AIRFARE on Page 4

Shipping company to close shop indefinitely in July

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» One of many small businesses expected to fold under CW crisis

A shipping company delivering supplies to stores and residents on Tinian from Saipan is expected to close shop this July as its workers are being sent back to their home countries after their contract worker permits expire.

Michael San Nicolas, who runs the SN-5 Shipping Company, said they will be sending these employees back to the Philippines, where they hope to process their papers for a few months. Their employees are all leaving at different dates in July, he added.

San Nicolas' shipping company is one of the many small businesses in the CNMI that are expected to feel the strain or close down with some 1,300 foreign workers leaving the Commonwealth, after the federal government announced in May that the CNMI had breached its CW worker cap and the affected employees not in the cap would have to leave within ten days of their permits expiring.

"My dad has been running this shipping between Tinian and Saipan for 26 years," since 1990, he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

"When he died three years ago, the children,

See SHIPPING on Page 4

Torres on typhoon resiliency: 'We're getting there'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Torres

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres says the government is working on securing its own warehouse for goods and equipment should the next devastating typhoon hit the CNMI.

Speaking to reporters at the Federal Emergency Management Agency workshop last week, the governor thanked FEMA for their partnership since Typhoon Soudelor last year. "Throughout whole time up today we have strong relationship and future

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INSIDE

LOCAL
The Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority on Tuesday held a test run of its Fixed Flex-Route service with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his family.

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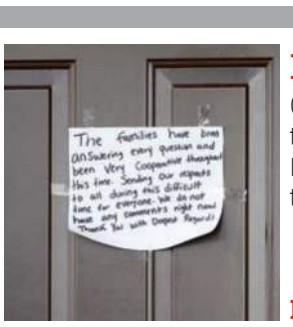

NATION
Orlando gunman Omar Mateen identified himself as an Islamic soldier in calls with authorities during his rampage.

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LIFE & STYLE
The SUV that rolled down a driveway and killed "Star Trek" actor Anton Yelchin was being recalled because the gear shifters.

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Local

Chief justice, male crew rescued as boat sinks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro and a male crewmember were safely rescued after their boat got flooded due to rough water and subsequently sunk west of Tinian and Goat Island on Saturday night.

The Department of Public Safety's Zodiac 3 rescue boat transported Castro and his crewmember to the Commonwealth Health Center for further treatment, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong said he has no information as to how many hours the two were stranded and that more details about the incident will be released to the media today, Wednesday.

Castro

Tarkong said that on Saturday at 8:29pm, DPS Boating Safety officers responded to a reported boat in distress about 19 miles west of Tinian and Goat Island.

Tarkong said Boating Safety officers did a grid search with the help of a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, which spotted the boat drifting about a mile east of last location reported.

He said the officers aboard the Zodiac 3 boat safely rescued the two passengers.

"The U.S. Coast Guard helicopter was hovering over the scene," Tarkong said.

He said it turned out that due to rough water, the boat was flooded and subsequently sunk.

It's not clear whether Castro was the captain and the owner of the boat.

CW SUITCASE FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Elitza Stoilova joins many longtime foreign workers from different nationalities in waving to motorists to express gratitude to CNMI leaders who support calls for improved immigration status along Beach Road in front of Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Susupe Saturday afternoon. Stoilova brings a symbolic suitcase with a message "I am a CW. Want me to stay?" The workers and representatives of some businesses are also appealing to the federal government to immediately resolve the CW crisis to avoid the shut down of many businesses in the Commonwealth. Every day foreign workers affected by the crisis are asking if the federal government has already acted to address the problem.

US govt: Improper to initiate civil contempt against witness who failed to appear at trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. government takes no position on whether the federal court should exercise its discretion to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against Rebecca Lynn Castro, a government's witness who was arrested last week for failing to appear at the trial of couple Francisco Muna Tydingco and Lili Zhang Tydingco.

Assistant U.S. attorney Russell H. Lorfing asserted that while the U.S. District Court for the NMI has inherent authority to initiate criminal contempt under Rule 42 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the U.S. government takes no position on whether the court should exercise that discretion in Castro's case.

Because Castro's testimony is no longer needed in the case against the Tydingco couple, her compliance with the subpoena is no longer warranted and as such the U.S. government concedes that civil contempt would be improper under these circumstances, said Lorfing in the U.S. government's brief filed in court on Monday.

According to court documents, Castro was served with a subpoena to appear at the trial of the Tydingcos, but allegedly failed to do so. The trial began last June 7 and completed last June 13. The jury found the Tydingcos guilty of harboring an illegal alien.

Federal agents served to Castro in San Vicente a bench warrant issued by the federal court last June 9. Last Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted attorney Sean Frink's request to release his client, Castro.

Manglona ordered Castro to appear in court on June 29 at 9am to show cause why she should not be held in contempt.

Frink argued that it is not clear whether Castro is facing criminal or civil contempt.

Manglona ordered the parties to submit briefs, stating the facts and laws in finding Castro in contempt.

In the U.S. government's brief filed on Monday, Lorfing said after an extensive investigation in Tydingcos' case, federal agents discovered evidence that Rongxue Liu intended to enter into a fraudulent marriage with Castro, a U.S. citizen.

Lorfing said the U.S. government believed Castro to be a percipient witness who could testify that Francisco Tydingco introduced Castro to Lili Tydingco for the purpose of arranging a fake marriage.

Lorfing said Lili Tydingco agreed to pay Castro for entering into a fraudulent marriage with Liu, although Castro never received payment.

He said the U.S. government sought and received a subpoena requiring Castro to testify at the trial of the Tydingcos.

The prosecutor said the court issued a subpoena commanding Castro to appear last June 7 at federal court, and that the subpoena was personally served on Castro last June 3.

Lorfing said he met with Castro on June 7 and advised her that she would be required to testify.

Lorfing said after a brief meeting, he advised Castro that her testimony was not expected until the following day.

Lorfing said Castro was told that the subpoena required her to return the following day.

The prosecutor also agreed to have law enforcement pick Castro up at 12pm the following day because she did not have a ride.

See US on Page 4

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Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Frances A. Castro
Director

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed additional rooms of the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort under permit application No.SMS-2015-X-029. The application to amend permit No.SMS-2015-X-029 was submitted by the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC for the additional 119 upscale hotel rooms bringing a total of 373 hotel rooms for the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel Resort.

The public hearing is scheduled for July 6, 2016, at 5:00PM at the BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room in Lower Gualo Rai, Middle Road, Saipan.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Grand Mariana Casino and Hotel project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

‘Help preserve beautification projects’

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The contractor’s lead manager for the Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway re-lighting project is appealing to the community not to destroy or vandalize beautification and other improvement project being done by the government and non-profit groups.

The Marianas Visitors Authority is the lead agency for the pathway lighting project and tapped RNV Construction as the contractor for the project.

Project lead manager Jay Angulo said the entire community would benefit once they finish fixing the pathway lights. “This will give others the chance to run, jog, or walk at night. The people will no longer be afraid since the pathway will have lights.”

The pathway re-lighting project, however, is facing delay after robbers took about 1,300 feet of copper wire last month. RNV personnel, aside from discovering the missing wire, also found out that someone shattered a number of the new bulbs that they installed.

“I was really surprised that some people would steal something that you are using to improve areas or facilities on Saipan. People are doing these projects for everyone in the community and also for tourism purposes,” added Angulo.

Angulo added it was field supervisor Nilo Naval and two others who discovered the wires were stolen when they were about to begin work on May 28. They reported the incident to the police.

Angulo said their personnel finished working at 4:30pm then went back to the office that Friday, May 27. He suspects the robbery took place sometime between 12am and 4am when there are fewer cars passing Beach Road.

RNV Construction has already replaced all the missing wires then welded the boxes to prevent a similar incident in the future. The project has a one-year warranty and RNV would fix the problem if there are problems.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion said despite the incident he is looking forward to a partial lighting of the pathway. “Yes, the copper wire theft will delay the overall lighting but we hope to have a partial lighting of the pathway very soon.”

Angulo said it’s a good thing that government agencies like the MVA and a number of organizations and businesses that are involved in various projects that would benefit the entire community.

The Saipan Mayor’s Office, aside from keeping the island clean, also began planting flowers in selected areas along the pathway.

The Rotary Club of Saipan, the local Lions Clubs, the United Filipino Organization, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, IT&E, McDonald’s, and Tan Holdings are some of the organizations and businesses that hold beautification projects around the island.

JON PEREZ

RNV Construction field supervisor Nilo Naval, right, assists Alvin Alibayan in replacing a bulb in one of the lampposts at the Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway. The Marianas Visitors Authority is the project’s lead agency and it hopes to have a partial lighting ceremony soon.

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
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IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before Wednesday, June 22, 2016. Payments not received by close of business on June 22 will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

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APC AQUA RESORT CLUB Saipan

Hegland: FEMA to shoulder volunteer builders' plane tickets

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will help shoulder the airfare of volunteer builders that will help rebuild the homes of eligible families that were affected by Typhoon Soudelor last year.

Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts director Jenny Hegland said there are about 120 families that are eligible for the program. These are the same families that were qualified to receive FEMA assistance.

CARE held a general meeting yesterday at the Governor's Office conference room to provide reports on the various projects that each committee had been doing in the recovery efforts.

CARE and the American Red Cross, through the disaster case management, worked in providing all necessary information to the CNMI government, which submitted the request to FEMA which will then help pay the volunteers' airfare to come to Saipan.

Hegland said the FEMA invitational travel program is valued at $250,000. CARE would administer the program with FEMA providing a rotating group of volunteer builders and support crew for the next two years.

The program is under FEMA Region 9 that is composed of the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada and the U.S. territories of the American Samoa, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

CARE would still shoulder the cost of buying the materials and other resources that will be used by the volunteer laborers. CARE also sought the Marianas Public Land Trust for additional funding in helping repair the homes of the families, who are of Northern Marianas descent.

Hegland, however, added that there are about 300 families that are not eligible for the project mostly made up of those who did not qualify to receive assistance from FEMA. "But we're strategizing how to get funds to help them with the repairs and rebuild, and for resource development."

She added they are still waiting for the response from the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation on CARE's request for additional funding. Hegland and CARE president Alex Sablan made a presentation to SNILD members last March to help in rebuilding some of the homes.

"Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres is also requesting the Legislature to appropriate $300,000 from the proposed budget in the new fiscal year. The money would help the families that are not eligible for the FEMA assistance," said Hegland.

TORRES

From Page 1

because hardening is going to take time," said Torres. "Without them we would not be where we are today."

So you're question is, are we ready? We are getting there," he added, when asked if he was optimistic the CNMI could handle the next major typhoon that has still left many in the community without homes and crippled the power grid last year.

Torres, noting FEMA assistance programs, said they have an underground electrical cable proposed up at local Saipan airport. "We have about 70 percent of our wells up there so that will definitely take care of that" and "we are in the process of building our own warehouse. Mr. [Robert] Fenton [FEMA regional administrator] has offered to go to Guam and look at what they have there and perhaps emulate the warehouse they have."

Torres said they have identified a warehouse site where the CNMI Office of Homeland Security is located on Capitol Hill. Torres says because of its higher elevation, they believe it's the best-situated part of the island.

Since the typhoon, the governor has urged local agencies to take advantage with hazard mitigation grants or assistance they could avail of from FEMA in their disaster recovery program and asked if he was happy agencies have done this, he said, "I believe all of us can do more. But I believe with the resources and the availability that they have I believe they have done a good job."

"A lot of this success comes with partnership. I would not be here without the help of Mr. Fenton, and FEMA, guiding us with what we need and what we category we fall into," he said.

Fenton, for his part, says partnership is critical. He said they had about 50 different federal personnel at the workshop at the Fiesta Resort & Spa last week, from about 15 to 20 different agencies. "Not only are they here as teams that respond during a typhoon, a lot of them have a lot of grants programs where they assist CNMI throughout the year."

The agencies' had the goal of building a response and recovery plan to a typhoon, which they plan on working on over the next year with an "exercise" planned at the end of the process to test the plan.

Fenton stresses a "unity of effort. "To respond, it really takes the whole community so it's not just CNMI and the federal government but the private sector, faith-based, and nonprofits.

"It's the public here. Do individuals have disaster kits? Are they able to take care of themselves? Do they have a plan?"

"Everyone needs to be part of this. We are all going to work together over the next year…so we are all working toward the same goals to the governor's priorities," he said.

Climate change was a topic on the first day of the workshop last week and Fenton says climate change affects everyone. "Not only with potential changes in the climate but sea level rise and so as we look at those effects—not only as they happen tomorrow—but over a period of time, one decade, two decades down the road, are we building that infrastructure to not only withstands the threats today but are we building them with the anticipated threats two or three decades from now so that infrastructure will survive those changes?"

He added that they are looking at putting underground part of the local power system and making sure there is redundancy in the system with regards to water by putting generators near key water wells.

They originally wrote up the recovery project for 450 wooden poles and 250 concrete poles, but Fenton noted that in talking more with the local utility and governor, they've adjusted the project in the last month to bring even more concrete poles.

AIRFARE

From Page 1

"I know some of them don't want to leave because they have kids here. And others they want to wait for the liquidated damages and back wages that they are supposed to receive—but there is no definite schedule yet when the money can be released. So that is one of the problems."

"We are arranging their airfare—either through help of the Philippine government or" the new investor in the Dynasty hotel, Hong Kong Entertainment.

"…we are waiting for a list for those who would be willing to leave," Arago added.

Power in their housing units have been shut down and the current fuel for the generator is only good for a week since CUC power was cut off last Friday, Arago said.

And according to the barracks caretaker, he added, they have one month supply of meat but if there is no power, this sets food up to spoil.

"I told them that it's really hard to wait when there is no definite timeframe, unless they can do something and get a job here. But the problem is—how can they get a job if they don't have status? They really need to go home and apply. That's what I told them."

"Especially for those who really want to come back," he went on to say. "If they can find an employer and go home and apply, I think they have a chance to come back."

Arago says the affected employees have not have status since the end of 2014. Renewals were filed but denied by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the workers continued working at the Dynasty while their employer filed an appeal, he said.

Workers have informed Arago that there have been about eight payrolls missed for hotel employees.

He assures that if employees chose to go back to the Philippines they will be contacted if a settlement comes through on their owed money.

"Rest assured those back wages will be sent to the right party when the decisions comes or when there is final decision on the matter."

Arago said he planning to visit Tinian again this Saturday. He said they're soliciting from organizations, like the United Filipino Organization, and other stakeholders to contribute to the workers' plight.

As this developed yesterday, community groups and businesses continued to donate goods for shipping to Tinian at the SN-5 Shipping Company in Lower Base.

Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas had written to the local Red Cross and The Salvation Army for much needed donations to assist the affected worker on Monday.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (Ind-Saipan) office helped bring donations yesterday from organizations like CORE CNMI and other donations from the community, amounting to "two truckloads" of donations to the dock site at Lower Base.

The donations consisted mostly of hygiene items like water, toilet paper, and toothpaste, Propst said.

"We are still collecting," Propst told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. Propst can be reached at 287-7883.

US

From Page 2

Lorfing said that last June 8, Homeland Security Investigations Task Force Officer Joel Tudela arrived at the predetermined location to pick up Castro at 12pm, but Castro was not present.

Tudela waited for over an hour but she never appeared as promised.

Last June 9, Tudela went to Castro's house to remind her that she had been subpoenaed to appear in court.

Lorfing said Castro would not come out the door.

Lorfing said Tudela waited outside the house to execute a bench warrant, but due to a miscommunication, Tudela left the premises without executing the bench warrant.

Lorfing said an hour later, Homeland Security Investigations agent Michael Lansangan arrived at Castro's residence to serve the bench warrant.

Lorfing, however, said Castro was no longer at the house.

The prosecutor said it was last Wednesday, June 15, that U.S. Marshals executed the bench warrant on Castro.

Lorfing said civil contempt is designed to force the disobedient party to comply with a court order, while the purpose under criminal authority is to punish the witness' disobedience.

SHIPPING

From Page 1

myself included, took over the business.

"We just got caught up with this cap," he said, adding they were late by two weeks in sending applications to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

San Nicolas sayid they have seven contract workers, all of which are skilled workers, like engine mechanics, a mason, and shipping crew.

San Nicolas says they ship goods every week to stores on Tinian and used to ship supplies to the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino when it was still running.

He stresses they are not the only company who ships goods, though, to Tinian.

"We are just hoping and crossing our fingers we will continue because we are looking at the future with hotels opening on Tinian and we want to continue our father's business. The children want to continue Dad's business," he said.

San Nicolas, when asked, said they would try to hire local workers, "but my men—they've been working on our boat for 15 to 20 years—and they know it inside out."

"I am deeply saddened to see a local company that has been in service since 1990 have to close down," said Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) yesterday, when sought for comment. "They provide a valuable service between Saipan and Tinian and many stores depend on SN-5 and residents depend on them for goods."

Propst added many of these positions lost are skilled workers and if local workers wants these jobs they can apply but it was sad to see long-term workers and families being forced to leave island.

As the contract worker crisis continues, business and labor groups have sought solutions outside administrative fixes by the federal government to alleviate the strain on the contract worker cap.

Business groups last week, for one, asked the Saipan casino and another developer to pull all their construction visas not on the ground for their hotel developments to alleviate the strain on the quota.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Society of Human Resources Management asked Best Sunshine International, Ltd., the Saipan casino, and Honest Profit International, Ltd., to cancel these visa applications.

The groups fear economic collapse next fiscal year with some 7,000 construction workers under the CW cap in the pipeline replacing many longtime workers that run the day-to-day businesses of the Commonwealth. Some 1,200 construction workers occupy the CW quota for this year.

The Saipan casino, who has boasted plans to complete a high-class casino resort in Garapan by 2017 and begin the first phase of its $7-billion dollar casino industry on Saipan that is still seeking its investors to fund large swaths of the project, has still not responded to emails from *Saipan Tribune* on the groups' request to pull out their construction worker visas.

DPL sues USPS operator for failing to operate snack bar

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands is suing the operator of the U.S. Postal Service Capitol Hill Branch Post Office for allegedly failing to operate a snack bar on the premises, for untimely payment of rents, plus other violations of their lease agreement.

DPL, through counsel assistant attorney general Christopher M. Timmons, asked the Superior Court to issue a judgment holding defendant Jesus M. Castro liable to pay DPL $58,780.22.

DPL asked the court to order Castro to immediately vacate and surrender possession of the premises to DPL.

DPL demanded payment for fees and costs to which it is entitled pursuant to the Holdover Tenancy Act and the lease.

According to Timmons in the complaint filed on Friday, on May 13, 2003, the Marianas Public Lands Authority leased Government Building 1301 to Castro for purposes of operating the U.S. Postal Service Capitol Hill Rural Branch Post Office as a USPS contractor.

Timmons said the lease called for payment of $100 per year for the first three years, and 10 percent of Castro's contracted consideration under its USPS contract which was represented to equal minimum rent of $2,500 per annum for the first floor of the premises.

Timmons said the lease also called for payment of rent equal to 3 percent of gross receipts derived from operation of a snack bar on the second floor of the premises during the first six years of the lease, and thereafter, an amount equal to 8 percent of appraised value of the premises.

Timmons said Castro never operated a snack bar on the premises.

He said that on Nov. 22, 2006 Castro was given a written notice of violation of the lease for failing to operate a snack shop on the premises; failing to submit copies of its USPS contract, BGRT returns, and audited financial statements; failing to submit plans and permits for repairs, renovation and construction; failing to maintain the premises; and failing to provide insurance.

On Sept. 19, 2007, Castro was given notice of default for failure to cure the violations and for failure to make timely payment of rents.

On June 21, 2010, Castro was given a final notice of default stating that "failure to comply with this final notice will result in immediate termination of the lease and DPL will close lessee's operation of a postal service on Capitol Hill…"

On Feb. 15, 2011, Castro was given written notice to vacate within 15 days and to pay back rent.

To date, Timmons said, Castro had only paid $356.98 in rent under the lease.

Castro occupied premises under the lease from May 13, 2003 until its termination on Aug. 10, 2010.

On June 1, 2016, DPL personnel served Castro a three-day notice to pay the sum of $58,780.22.

Timmons said that, on June 1, 2016, Castro, through his wife, acknowledged receipt of the June 1 notice to vacate and requested additional time to respond.

At the June 15, 2016 meeting, Timmons said Castro refused to pay the sum of $58,780.22, which represents all rent and holdover fees due under the lease together with interest at 12 per annum, compounded monthly.

Timmons said Castro has not vacated the premises despite DPL's demand to do so.

Animal rights advocate hopes to present study to Legislature

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Animal rights advocate Nicole Schafer is ready to present her findings to members of the CNMI Legislature if that would convince them to act on House Bill 19-55 or the animal protection bill. She renewed her call to have the CNMI finally have an animal protection law.

Schafer held a brief presentation of the study she made last year as part of her post-graduate thesis—Marianas Dog Attitude Survey, which aims to know the CNMI's attitude and treatment of dogs.

"I'm happy to present the findings of my survey and study to the Legislature. I've been talking to Rep. Ed Propst (Ind-Saipan) and he's keeping me in the loop since he knows where I stand when it comes to animal welfare," said Schafer.

She added that people in the CNMI must give it sometime to expect changes if the bill becomes law within the year.

Results of her survey showed that 91.7 percent of people in the CNMI want to have an animal protection law. "We need legislation and enforcement afterwards. The community support is already there. A large part of the community believes dogs feel pain and love."

Schafer

She said the island nations of the Bahamas, Dominica, Haiti, Indonesia, St. Maarten, and Samoa have the same issues on animal control and cruelty like the CNMI.

"Free roaming dogs get into a fight, a male could impregnate a female while a female could get pregnant, and worse they could get hit by a car," said Schafer, who works at the Coastal Resource Management under the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality.

Her study also showed that 95.2 percent of dogs in the CNMI are strays, while Guam has a little over 93 percent. One stray male or female dog alone could produce 508 puppies a year.

Stray dogs had become a nuisance in several communities as they tear up and scatter trash, defecate everywhere, spread diseases, cause traffic accidents, and scare off tourists.

She said that one way of curbing stray dogs is to have an effective animal control program though spaying and neutering, catching them, putting them in animal shelter or hold free adoptions.

Schafer asked 275 people in the people on their attitude and treatment towards dogs and other animals. A total of 77 percent said they are dog owners, while 25 percent said they have other pets at home.

HB 19-55 covers abuse, beating, inflicting harm, killing, and torturing animals that carry fines ranging from $250 to $1,000.

A study by the Animal Legal Defense Fund in 2015 showed that the CNMI is dead last among the 56 U.S. states and territories when it comes to animal protection laws.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified bidders to submit their qualifications and bids for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AND COMMUTER TERMINALS SIX (6) A/C UNIT REPLACEMENT, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-16.**

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016,** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of replacement of six (6) air-conditioning units located at the Saipan International and Saipan Commuter Terminals. Procurement includes removal and disposal of existing units scheduled for replacement.

The Project is being funded by Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for installation of all six units shall be **TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) CALENDAR DAYS.** Liquidated damages shall be imposed in the amount of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** per day if the commissioning of the A/C units is delayed beyond the contract time without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70-26 of the specifications. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Non-Collusive Affidavit" and "Designation of Subcontractors" as contained in the bid documents, with the submission of the Bid.

Bids and contract documents including specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CONFERENCE ROOM, Commonwealth Ports Authority Office, Saipan at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, JULY 1, 2016,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders shall be required to attend.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference. Contractors are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are encouraged to use the CD bid schedule form. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either bid bond from a CPA approved listed surety company, a certified check or a cashier's check in the amount not less than five percent (5%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ ROMAN T. TUDELA
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: June 20, 2016

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW/SWMD16-RFP-001

PROCUREMENT OF SERVICES TO RECEIVE, PROCESS & MARKET SOURCE SEPARATED RECYCLABLES & THE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF THE RECYCLING FACILITY AT THE LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies or individuals to provide services to receive, process and market source-separated recyclables and the operation and maintenance of the recycling facility located at the Lower Base Transfer Station (LBTS), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-210** (competitive sealed proposals) of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Services will be available on or after **June 22, 2016** at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred-Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division office.

A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m., local time, at the Solid Waste Management Division office, Lower Base Transfer Station on **July 13, 2016.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Enrique Dela Cruz, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 322-2762 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time **July 18, 2016.**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/SWMD16-RFP-001."** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposal must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 (formerly Emergency Management Office behind CHRB Postal Office), no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **August 01, 2016.**

Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose.** Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **August 01, 2016,** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via email to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **August 01, 2016** and must be received no later **August 10, 2016.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of proposal.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

The firm selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations NMIAC Section **70-30.3-245** and must be able to obtain a CNMI Business License prior to contract award.

Procurement of these services is made in accordance with NMIAC Section **70-30.3-210** of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals for the project will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualification and Experience of the Firm: 20%
2. Experience or equivalent on Similar Projects: 20%
3. Technical Approach: 35%
4. Cost: 25%

Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest proposer. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

Award shall be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be most advantageous to the government taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in this request for proposal. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfection in a proposal if in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Lawmaker seeks higher compensation for veterans

The 19th House of Representatives last month adopted House Resolution 19-45, authored by Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), encouraging U.S. Congress to adopt legislation that would create a special category for increased compensation of veterans residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and other geographically challenged areas in the Pacific.

"Basically, the resolution is requesting the U.S. Congress to authorize the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to establish an additional percentage to the compensation benefits of veterans residing in the CNMI and the other territories," said Demapan.

"Our veterans have a dire need to be properly compensated to help them with the additional costs they have to bear in order to get the same level of medical treatment that veterans living in the U.S. mainland get."

H.R. 19-45 points out that the current level of service rendered by the federal government to CNMI veterans is not only a disservice to the American veterans who choose to reside in the CNMI and other geographically-challenged areas such as Guam, the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and American Samoa, but a disservice to all those American veterans who have fought for freedom.

Demapan

"In 2011, the CNMI was designated as a medically underserved area by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services," added Demapan. "This designation was granted because the federal government recognized that our healthcare system clearly does not have the full capacity to meet the healthcare needs of the Commonwealth."

Demapan also shed light on the additional burden imposed on veterans residing on the islands of Tinian and Rota. These veterans have to pay out of pocket for their airfare to Saipan, including all necessary accommodations, if they were to undergo medical treatment from an approved clinic on Saipan.

"Cost of living in the CNMI is already high to begin with," said Demapan. "This makes if even more difficult for CNMI-based veterans to travel abroad to get the medical assistance they desperately need and rightfully deserve."

In an effort to amplify the concerns of veterans living in the CNMI and the territories, Demapan noted that Guam Senator Frank Blas, Jr. had also introduced legislation and it was adopted by the Guam Legislature early last month.

"I would like to thank Senator Blas for his insight and efforts to open lines of discussion on this important matter," stated Demapan. "I am hopeful that having a unified position between the CNMI and Guam legislatures would net a positive result in our quest to bring much needed assistance for our island veterans." ***(PR)***

Greenstay gets its first two homeowners

Two clients are in the process of finally having their own fully furnished Greenstay houses by the end of July. Skywalker Holdings Company will be opening this June 25 to all its distinguished clients.

"It well coincides with Greenstay's original intention," said SHC sales account manager Cyril Song. "After witnessing the destruction of houses brought by Typhoon Soudelor on Saipan, Skywalker Holdings dedicated time and effort to design a structure that could withstand the living conditions on the island."

"Thus the Greenstay Project started. This project promotes typhoon- and earthquake-resistant, termite- and rust-proof structures that have the durability of up to 50 years," added Song.

"We want to bring a more urban house design. Changing the way houses are built in the island and bring in carefree, comfortable, and constant houses which tailor to the unique weather in Saipan."

Greenstay's sales office is set to open on June 25. The office, open from 10am to 6pm, is located in Middle Road just across Shell gas station. Greenstay's office will be fully opening to clients for signing the housing contract from June 25 to July 10.

Song said during the two-week opening, the first 50 Greenstay families who signed the Home Ownership Scheme during the first showcase are invited to sign the home purchasing contract.

"We have various gifts for our distinguished clients who sign the contract, such as neck massagers, beddings, lamps, etc.; we even prepared small toys for little children to show our sincere gratitude," added Song.

In addition, Greenstay will be updating the status and progress on the entire house purchasing process for its first Greenstay family member on Facebook (CNMI Greenstay), folks are all welcome to follow Greenstay on Facebook to witness the evolution of the big Greenstay family.

For more information, email greenstay.cnmi@gmail.com or call 233-8812 or check out the company on Facebook. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Skywalker Holdings Company will be giving away gifts for distinguished clients who sign contracts for Greenstay houses.

EPA report: Need better internal controls in CNMI

HONOLULU (AP)—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's inspector general says the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands needs to improve the way it handles federal money awarded for wastewater treatment infrastructure and other environmental programs.

The EPA inspector general said in a report released Monday the commonwealth's Department of Environmental Quality and the Commonwealth Utility Corp. need to improve their internal controls.

The report says more than $58 million in funds may not be administered efficiently and effectively without adequate internal controls and oversight. The report says this would reduce the effect these funds could have on improving human health and the environment.

The inspector general auditors toured 18 sites for the report, including sewer replacements and connections and wastewater treatment plants.

Hotel gardener arrested for allegedly punching common-law wife's face

A hotel gardener was arrested for allegedly punching his common-law wife on the face twice during an argument over his missing car keys at her parents' house in Kagman on Sunday night.

Mark Palacios Camacho, 31, was taken to Superior Court yesterday for bail hearing on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

The victim's nose was bleeding and her lower lip sustained a small cut. Her lips were swollen, police said.

At yesterday's bail hearing, Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio maintained the $5,000 cash bail that the court originally imposed in issuing the arrest warrant.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Camacho. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Preliminary hearing will be on June 24 at 9am.

Police Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that two police officers responded to the victim's house on Sunday at 8pm after she called 911 for police's assistance against Camacho.

Aldan said when the officers arrived, Camacho had just left the house and the victim stated she was fine and would not file a complaint.

Aldan said later at 9:03pm, the victim called 911 again as Camacho was allegedly creating a disturbance.

Aldan said when a police officer arrived at the house a few minutes after the call, he observed the victim carrying an infant girl and her lips appeared swollen.

The victim alleged that Camacho punched her before he left the house.

Aldan said investigation showed that the victim was with four of five children and Camacho in the living room.

As one child was crying because it was hot, the victim asked Camacho to bring their son into the bedroom. Camacho got mad and told her she's controlling.

As the argument ensued, Camacho yelled at her as he wanted to leave the house but could not find his car keys. She called 911, but when a police officer arrived she asked the officer to disregard her call as Camacho already left and she was fine.

Camacho, however, later returned to the house. He messed up the bedroom, looking for his car keys. He then punched the wooden bedroom door.

Camacho's father arrived and dropped off the spare key.

When Camacho's father left, the two continued their argument. He then allegedly punched her on the nose and mouth. She dialed 911 again for assistance.

Camacho left the house and drove to his parents' house in Dandan. A police officer followed Camacho and arrested him that same night. The victim estimated that repair for the damaged bedroom door would cost over $100. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COTA to implement fixed flex-route pilot service

The Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority on Tuesday, held a test run of its Fixed Flex-Route service with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his family, as well as Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog and several cabinet members.

The Fixed Flex-Route service combines predictable services of fixed routes around island as well as the affordability per passenger availed to those of a call-a-ride. Special Assistant for Public Transportation Alfreda P. Camacho noted that this service will provide curb-to-curb service to call-a-ride passengers at a minimal cost, or no additional cost in most cases.

"This reduces demand for para-transit and gives passengers the ability to travel dynamically by using a scheduled transit service," she said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, first lady Diann, and their new baby take part in the test-run of the Commonwealth Office on Transit Authority's Fixed Flex-Route service yesterday.

The pilot program will run public transportation services along the southern end of the business district of Garapan to the Northern Marianas College, servicing key points along the way to provide a public transportation alternative for CNMI residents and visitors, while reducing traffic congestion, carbon emissions, accidents, and fuel costs while improving air quality.

The service is set to launch later this year as the final stages of planning between COTA and its federal counterparts take place.

In 2013, a transit feasibility study was initiated and undertook a whole community engagement process to create a blueprint to establish public transit as an integral community service in the CNMI, which was reliable, affordable, and safe.

In March 2016, the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority received $344,293 in grant funding from the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program combined with funds from the Federal Transit Administration for a Fixed Flex Bus Express Pilot Program.

Camacho shares that the flex-route transit is a hybrid of conventional fixed-route transit service.

"It assimilates conventional transit in that its main route covers a service corridor with a set of fixed stops and schedules. Fixed route vehicles are allowed to deviate from the main route to provide service to users who either have trip ends located out of the service coverage of the main route or require accessible services such as para-transit," she said.

At this time, COTA is setting in motion plans to develop public transportation services for Rota and Tinian.

Additionally, COTA is planning to implement its feeder services for As Matuis to Garapan as Route 2, Kagman to Garapan as Route 3, Kagman to Dan Dan to Northern Marianas College as Route 4, and Navy Hill to Garapan as Route 5.

The feeder service, she says, will work in conjunction with scheduled public transit to extend geographic coverage at an even lower cost. The planned feeder services will serve remote or sparsely populated areas using small low-cost vehicles to shuttle passengers between neighborhood locations and scheduled stops on transit route.

During the pilot run, Torres expressed the socio-economic benefits of public transit amidst the many new developments.

"Today is one step closer to fulfilling COTA's Public Transportation Plan and narrowing down the list of possible routes to the most promising for fixed-flex route and para-transit services in the Commonwealth. Soon many will be able to use public transit for school, work, and recreation as this program progresses," he said.

For her part, Camacho underscored the importance of public transportation for the CNMI, while also emphasizing the Torres administration's continual commitment to fully implementing a system that serves all three islands.

"Public transportation makes sense for the CNMI. It serves as a link into the community and builds on our efforts to improve the quality of life for every person residing here in the CNMI." ***(PR)***

CUC: Scheduled power interruption today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there is a scheduled power interruption today, June 22, from 3:30pm to 5:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace a primary 3-phase rotten power pole in Susupe behind Nauru Building. This is part of ongoing systems maintenance throughout the island to address deficiencies on the electrical distribution grid. CUC greatly appreciates the understanding of the community during this period.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected: Kiya4 (Partial):

Susupe (Tekken St, Texas Road, Mt. Carmel Intersection), Chalan Kanoa (Texas Road, Jacinto Avenue, Lucia St., Casilda St., Nicolas Avenue, and Olympio Avenue)

Water well affected: None

Sewer Lift Station affected: None

Traffic light affected: Mt. Carmel intersection

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, we ask travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military, law Enforcement to conduct training at South Finegayan, Naval Magazine

ASAN, Guam—Military, federal, and local law enforcement will conduct training at the former South Finegayan housing area and at the Naval Base Guam Ordnance Annex (Naval Magazine) June 23.

Local residents in Dededo and Santa Rita will hear helicopters and small arms with simulation ammunition between 6pm and 9pm. The training is part of the weeklong Exercise Tempest Wind.

Tempest Wind is a routine exercise in which multinational ties with countries in the Pacific region are strengthened through military training. This year's exercise differs from previous years in that it is a domestic counterterrorism scenario designed to improve coordination and synchronization among U.S. military, U.S. interagency elements and local law enforcement in response to transnational terrorist threats to the homeland.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055. ***(PR)***

Tanapag Middle School registration ongoing

The Tanapag Middle School registration for School Year 2016-2017 is now ongoing. All students—returning and new—must submit a registration packet. Packets can be attained from the TMS main office. Office hours are from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday-Friday. All registration packets must be submitted in full to process enrollment. Deadline for registration is July 29. ***(PR)***

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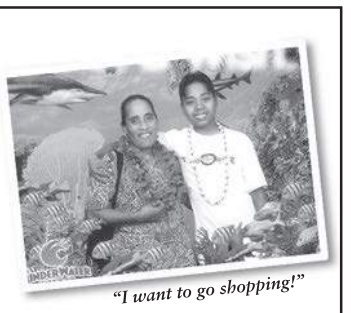

"I want to go shopping!"

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ADDENDUM NO. 2
July 15, 2016
ITB16-GOV-120
Construction of the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station

For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Capitol Hill, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, July 15, 2016. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, July 15, 2016, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service of the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 15, 2016, and must be received no later than 10:00 a.m., Saipan Local Time, on July 26, 2016. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m., ChST, July 26, 2016. However, if no notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders from outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m., Saipan Local Time, on July 15, 2016.

Philippine Airlines returns to CNMI

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

PAL Express president Bonifacio Sam, second left, leads the ceremonial toast along with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, eighth left, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, ninth left, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, second right, Century Travel president David M. Sablan, right, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, sixth right, and other PAL officials in last Friday's gala dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Philippines honorary consul to the CNMI Eli Arago and Century Travel president David M. Sablan talk with Philippine Airlines senior vice president-general counsel and corporate communications Atty. Siegfred Mison, right, and another PAL official after arriving in the inaugural Manila-Saipan flight last Thursday.

Gov. Raplh DLG Torres, left, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, and Commonwealth Ports Authority acting executive director Chris Tenorio present a plaque of appreciation to PAL Express president Bonifacio Sam.

Philippine Airlines vice president-marketing Ma. Sylvia Domingo, right, receives a commemorative plaque from Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion, left, hands over an official seal of the CNMI to Philippine Airlines SVP-airline operations Ismael Augusto Gozon.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers his welcome remarks in last Thursday's program of Philippine Airlines' inaugural Manila-Saipan flight at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport.

Philippine Airlines marketing activations officer Kookai Silverio hosts the program for the inaugural Saipan-Manila flight.

A cake welcomed CNMI and Philippine Airlines officials.

Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Tenorio gives a CNMI souvenir to PAL Express vice president-ground operations Bryan Kristoffer Lim.

Philippine Airlines manager-external communications and former newscaster Cielo Villaluna was the host of last Thursday's program.

Bordallo recognized by Association of Defense Communities

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo received the Congressional Leadership Award from the Association of Defense Communities for her work in support of active duty, reserve, and National Guard service members, their families, and the installations and communities that support them.

As the Ranking Member of the House Armed Forces Subcommittee on Readiness, Bordallo has been a leader in protecting funding for training and operational requirements, facility maintenance, construction, and improvement, and family housing.

She has been a fierce advocate for ending sequestration in order to ensure predictability and adequate funding of the Department of Defense, and has worked to protect funding for and provide flexibility to the Office of Economic Adjustment, which is the DoD arm responsible for supporting state and local government's response to defense program changes.

The Association of Defense Communities works to unite the diverse interests of communities, state governments, the private sector and the military on issues of base closure and realignment, community-military partnerships, defense real estate, mission growth, mission sustainment, military privatization, military families/veteran support and base redevelopment. The Congressional Leadership Award recognizes a Member of Congress who has demonstrated leadership in supporting active, realigning or closing installations; building partnerships between the military and communities; advancing policy issues that support defense communities across the country; and supporting military families and veterans.

"The Association of Defense Communities has been a critical community partner in building strong relationships between the DoD and civilian communities. I appreciate their tireless advocacy on behalf of our servicemembers and their families and for working closely with me and other Members of Congress to form policies that contribute to the wellbeing and success of the Armed Forces and the civilian communities in which they reside. I am honored to receive their 2016 Congressional Leadership Award for my work on the House Armed Services Committee. On Guam we know the importance of the military as a responsible and responsive community partner, and I believe that strong military-civilian engagement and cooperation is essential to achieving mutual goals and maintaining a productive relationship. I appreciated working with ADC to combat an amendment offered by Congressman Russell of Oklahoma that would have gutted OEA's ability to support local communities. I believe our strong working relationship helped to educate folks on why the amendment was unnecessary. I will continue to advocate for these strong community partnerships and work to support organizations that sustain them." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo received the Association of Defense Community's 2016 Congressional Award for her work in support of active duty, reserve, and National Guard service members, their families, and the installations and communities that support them. She is pictured with Rep. Sam Farr (CA-20) and Assistant Secretary of the Army Katherine Hammack who received the 2016 President's Award.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to Mary Lyn C. Montano. Greetings from you beloved family.

11TH ANNUAL UNITED PLANE PULL EVENT

40 teams tow the lines to fight cancer

GUAM—Guam's hometown airline, United Airlines proudly hosted its 11th Annual Plane Pull Event—"Towing the Line to Save Lives"—at the United hangar in Tiyan on June 18, uniting the community in support of the fight against cancer.

This year, 1,000 individuals representing 40 teams dug their heels into the tarmac to take a stand against cancer, supported by more than 500 cheering spectators made up of cancer survivors, friends, and family.

Forty teams of 25 members each competed to pull a United Boeing 737-800 aircraft—129 feet long, 41 feet high, and 124 feet wide, weighing a total of 145,000 lbs—12 feet in the fastest time.

The top three male and co-ed teams walked away with trophies and airline tickets from United. Two teams, one from each category, claimed the coveted title of 2016 United Plane Pull Champion: A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority (Men's Division Champions); and United Fire Family sponsored by Committee to Elect Regine Biscoe Lee (Co-ed Division Champions). The Westin Resort Guam earned the 2016 Team Spirit Award for the fifth time in the event's history.

Sam Shinohara, United's managing director, Airport-Asia/Pacific said: "Our beneficiaries, American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care, do an incredible job of caring for Guam's cancer patients and their families, and we are proud to support their efforts. At some juncture, the American Cancer Society will find a cure for cancer, but in the meantime Guam Cancer Care is helping our friends and neighbors seek the right cancer treatment. We want to help them in their endeavors to beat cancer. This is an employee-sponsored and -driven event, and I want to recognize my almost 1,000 co-workers who helped to make this happen."

Since 2006 United, with the support of the Guam community, has raised more than half a million dollars to benefit the American Cancer Society and Guam Cancer Care. The annual event is organized and hosted by United employees and has attracted the support of more than 9,000 participants over the past 11 years.

Results for the Men's Division

■ **1st Place:** A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam-Team Airport Fuetsan Man Metgot-On it 24/7 (Pulling Force) with a time of 5.14 seconds.

■ **2nd Place:** FD All Stars sponsored by Moylan's NetCare with a time of 5.15 seconds.

■ **3rd Place:** LeoPalace Resort Guam/Team Chikara-with a time of 5.20 seconds

Results for the Co-Ed Division

■ **1st Place:** United Fire Family sponsored by Committee to Elect Regine Biscoe Lee-with a time of 5.34 seconds.

■ **2nd Place:** Judiciary of Guam/Team Justice-with a time of 5.51 seconds.

■ **3rd Place:** South Pacific Petroleum Corporation/Team 76-with a time of 5.54 seconds.

■ **2016 Team Spirit Award Winner:** The Westin Resort Guam. ***(PR)***

Native Hawaiians unify in order to 'Vote to Rise'

KAPOLEI, Hawaii—The national nonprofit, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) has opened a five-year voter registration campaign to raise the impact of the Native Hawaiian community on local elections.

"The CNHA Vote-to-Rise campaign has the potential to engage tens of thousands of new voters from our communities in the ballot box on priorities important to our families," said Michelle Kauhane, CNHA President. "Through the generous investments of local and national funders, we are all in to register every new voter possible."

Partners include, No Vote No Grumble, APIA Vote, Native Vote and Rock the Vote. One of the CNHA Vote to Rise strategies is its "16 for 2016" that is registering 16 year olds to vote two years from now.

"We are in this for the long haul," said Jordyn Danner, CNHA Policy Center and Vote to Rise manager. "We aren't looking to only engage in election years, we want to build a solid pipeline of life long voters right out of high school."

Danner shared that voter registration is as easy as a text message. "Just text 788683 and type 16 for 2016 or vote to rise in the comment line, and in 2 seconds you get a link to register right from your phone."

The CNHA Vote-to-Rise campaign is also invested in technology and database systems to build one of the largest most accurate voter databases on Native Hawaiians.

"Data is key," Danner said. "We are very clear about the data aspect of this work by making sure we are tapping into the best available technology. Phone banking, mapping where our voters live, tracking whether registration is translating to actual votes cast are all important data points that we will invest in."

"If this kind of community organizing is meaningful to you, come join us," Kauhane remarked. "Hawaiians will not be at the bottom of voter statistics for long—this initiative intends to change the current reality to reach for what we are fully capable of—an engaged and active voting population in our homelands! It's exciting."

If you or the organization you work for would like an inventory of Vote-to-Rise materials to reach potential new voters, email policy@hawaiiancouncil.org or call Jordyn Danner, CNHA Program Manager at 808.596.8155.

CNHA is a national network of Native Hawaiian Organizations, providing assistance in accessing capital and technical resources, and is a policy voice on issues important to Native Hawaiian communities. Its mission is to enhance the cultural, economic, political, and community development of Native Hawaiians.

For more information about CNHA please contact us at 808.596.8155, toll-free at 1.800.709.2642, by e-mail at info@hawaiiancouncil.org, or at www.hawaiiancouncil.org. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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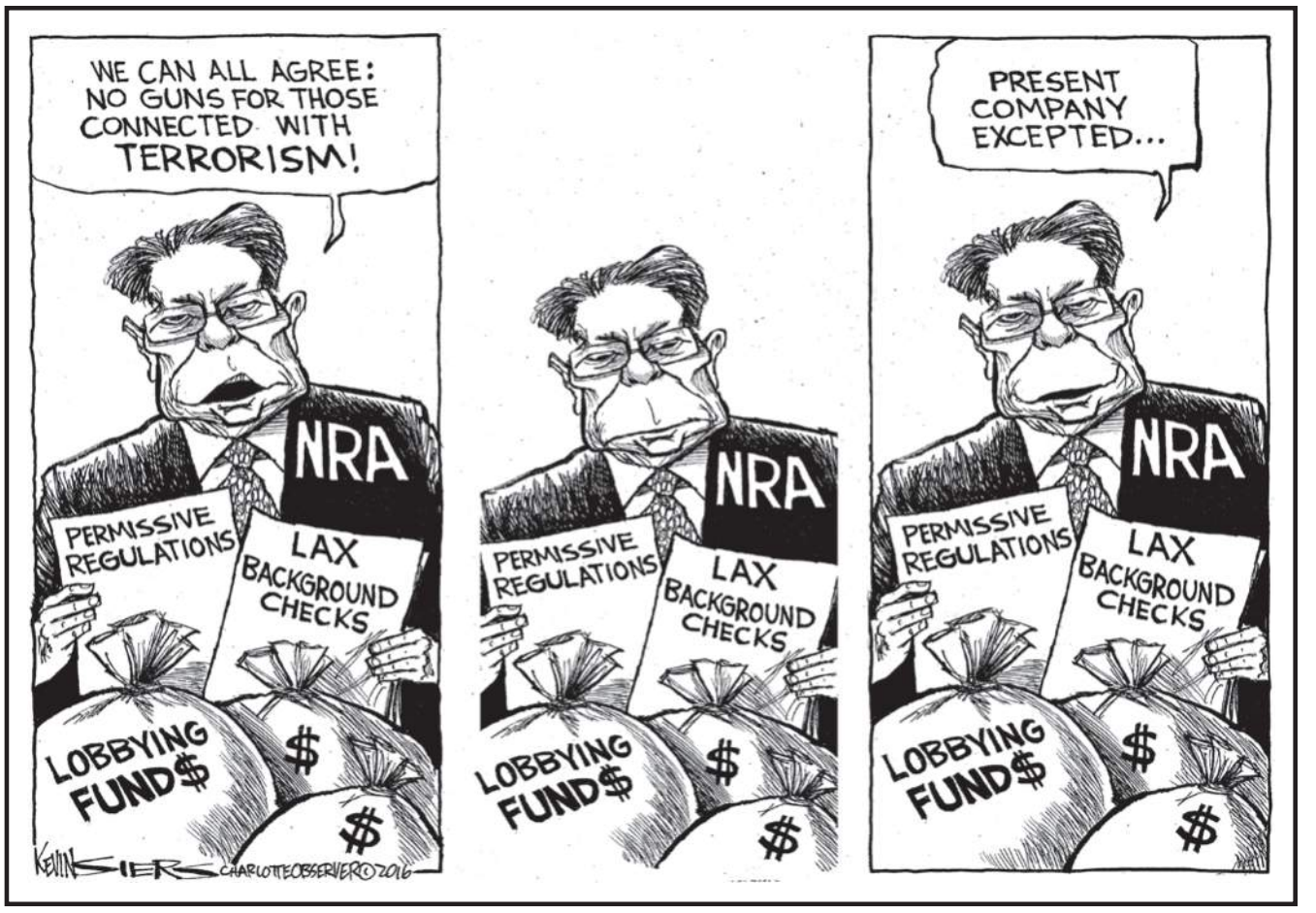

EDITORIAL

China's clampdown: A vile persecution of Hong Kong booksellers

In the last year, the Chinese authorities have cracked down on Hong Kong's once-raucous publishing industry. At least five prominent booksellers have disappeared — one from a busy Hong Kong street, another from a border area and one at a seaside apartment in Thailand. Others were picked up after crossing into China for personal or professional business.

The detention of these men — China insists that they all entered China "voluntarily" to help authorities investigate subversive authors — is a violation of the "one country, two systems" framework worked out with Britain when the former colonial power returned the territory to China in 1997. Under that treaty, Hong Kong was supposed to remain relatively free from Beijing's authoritarian control. Instead of guaranteed autonomy, the disappearance of the booksellers highlights Hong Kong's vulnerability. The kidnappings have profoundly shattered the illusion in Hong Kong society that its democracy would continue to thrive under Chinese control.

Lam Wing-kee, the former manager of Causeway Bay Books, resurfaced in Hong Kong last week after a half-year absence. On a visit to the mainland in October, he was seized at a border crossing. During the time Lam was gone, his store closed. It had been popular with locals and foreigners because it was a place where you could find salacious biographies and exposes of the Chinese elite that weren't available in China.

Lam said that Chinese authorities allowed him to return to Hong Kong to retrieve a hard-drive that contained information about dissidents and its customers. Instead of returning to the mainland with the information, Lam called a news conference Thursday and revealed details about his forced internment in China. He spoke of his five months in solitary confinement before being moved to an isolated apartment. He told of 24-hour surveillance and signing away his right to a lawyer, forbidden to have contact with his family. He even signed a "confession" implicating one of his fellow captives.

Now safely back in Hong Kong, Lam is adamant he will never return to the mainland of his own free will. Meanwhile, his harrowing account confirms the worst suspicions most Hong Kong citizens have about Beijing and its intentions. His bravery is commendable, but it is up to the international community to insist that China honor its international agreements and respect the rights of the citizens of Hong Kong.

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Homeless under the *frangipani*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

I've been rendered helpless by our recent aborted incidence of a turnaround toward China that got stopped in Tokyo for expired China residency visa, followed by a restful night at Lino Olopai's beach only to have us divested of our black backpack with all our valuables, rudely interrupting what might have been a narrative of serenity and peace.

Consequently, I am Lino Olopai's guest at his place, a seemingly treated open "park" by extended family and friends, where most of my personal belongings crowds the place until I can move into the low-income dwelling next door I applied for a year ago.

I am technically homeless. Called to fulfill a one-year contract at PSS but on a daily on-call basis, I am now pinching pennies to see how far I can survive the summer before hollering for assistance from younger siblings; I am not on the PSS annual payroll. Northern Marianas College is finally getting the Evaluation Services of Chicago report to see if my undergraduate diploma and Bachelor of Arts degree earned outside a United States institution pass muster and be able to teach at the Arts and Humanities section of the college.

It is the homeless nature of my existence that is the novelty. I had never been homeless before. A cleric for the United Methodist Church, I had a parsonage from where I rehearsed and recycled the "heavenly" metaphor that I was trained to use in order to affirm the profundity of humanness. My calling was to *Amen* profound humanity, though promoting the notion of depth required the skyward metaphor that was the language used, thereby, unnecessarily shifting the focus from the earth to the heavens, a cumbersome roundabout way.

The *frangipani*, which is also called plumeria in the Northern Marianas and *cala-chuchi* in Pea Eye, comes in varied colors, usually gracing the upper earlobes of *wahine*, one on the right if already spoken for, and on the left if still available for the courting. It is also where number-crunchers before the calculator parked their pencils.

More than the beauty of the flower that I appreciated from Tonga and Samoa, Kailua to Rota, is the mindset, a way of living and operating that the flowers signified in many Pacific Isles. I was stunned by the wall-less houses in Western Samoa and Tonga where people sheltered in the night with not even strung cloth division to maintain Europe's sense of privacy.

Refalawasch means, "people of the islands," with the ladies ensuring procreation on land and the menfolk establishing patterns of selfhood in the art and discipline, terminologies, and language of navigation.

The Carolinian terms for navigating the distance between Saipan and Tinian is different from that of Tinian to Rota, or Rota to Saipan, Saipan to Satawal, and Ulithi to the Bonin Islands. Among many of us landlocked creatures, sailing to and fro is sufficient description; the substantiveness of space reflected on the names of distances in between places reveals a different type of operating.

Take the goddess of *Horus* in Egypt, the center of fertility that got the phallic symbol abstracted to become the pointed pyramids. As in other locations around the world, Satawal in the Carolines has a male organ festival, and Japan in Kawasaki holds the *kanamara* fertility rites, but the phallic symbol and festivity is not the focus, fertility and creation, are.

These "pagan" practices mirrors western aversion to things sexual, "dirty" and not to be discussed in public. We do not print nor utter the f-word in public, but we promote ease of gun ownership as part of citizens' rights protected and guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Back to the navigators. Something about the ocean sailors of old did not journey from one point to another. They sailed the Satawal-Saipan wind and ocean currents with the intricacies of a sail handling the wind and the knowledge embedded in seeking direction from the North and South stars, locating where one is in the immense distances of the ocean water. They "were" on a trip rather than "went" on a trip. That requires more creation and innovation than any landlocked security of stability and order allow.

That's how being homeless and penniless under the *frangipani* at Lino's place had intruded into my landlocked orientation. Serenity in one's being is understood best when hanging over the abyss of nothingness, not the security of anchor.

The outrigger and sail of the canoe have its counterparts in the brain, and one learns to operate out of such context, the senses, feelings, and thoughts (medula oblongata, cerebellum, and cerebrum) native to the mind are areas of human management. What one does in response to external stimuli come simply from the facticity of air and water currents, and to the navigator, the position of the Northern and Southern stars.

We train and encourage our young to be creative and innovative. It as the wisdom of the *Refalawash* sitting under the *frangipani* in one of the islands, and one is homeless no more.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Huegon Liñguahe Natibu

Guaha priniponen aktu pot leksion finu` Chamorro yan Karolinas para umana` mandatu para umagradua i patgon gi eskuela guine. Lau i risetan chenot yan amot ginen medikun hegsu` iimperadot I Deni` acha lache. `An kanset i malañgu haf` na para unna` gimen amot lo`lu`?

Kulan masaulag supen tasi lau gai tinaduñg tupo`ña i asuntu. Haf` `ste na aktun tax asukat ni madisapprueba antes de u mahala tatte. Inipos na che`chu` hasupag sin luseru.

Para u ma`ug usun liñguahe debi u tutuhongue` gi halom guma` familia. Dispues humalom i sisteman edukasion ya fotmat ha simientu ineyag famaguon gi hechuran konbetsasion, tinaitai yan mañgge`. Yangin finu` Eñglis deste oga`an estake u maigo` ennau na patgon pues taimanu para un` tanum giya guiya usun liñguahiña?

Dispues machage aduanan (tax) asukat yan fina` gimen man-mames siha intension para uma-ataha chenot daibites. Taya` linachiña matutuhon gi fina` soft drinks (soda pops) mientras sige ta`lu ma-estudiaye haf` otru ni diariu ta konsusuma ni mandañosu. Haf` na ti mana`halom asigan kometsiu, pan, shoyu, soba, pugas, sitbesa, aguayente, tuba yan harina?

I asuntu gai minapot ya ti hoñgiyun haf` otru umatitisa chenot daibites. Ni ti asukat i asuntu lau gaige gi haga` yan pahariyan tautau. Pot ihemplo `an umayunat naturat na asukat i agaga` na patte gi haga` estague` tutuhon daibites. Gigon chafleg kinalamten pahariya-ta ha choneg chenot daibites. Mama` ferian daibites `an un` daflogue asukat!

Debi ta dis-onse i toru ginen i kareta pot para ta planuye fine`nina para manu hit. Dididi` ya guaha sattun na planu ileghu na ta danche dispues karera-ta. Haf` mohon?

Yangin puru sakudidan na`tatah yan gueku pues sumen namase` i publiku gi ti apmam yan pa`gu. Siempre u anog este sais mesis yan pa`gu `nai todu mansinapet pot diskuidun hegsu` I Deni`.

Man-ñahlalañg

Arestau dos offisiat DOC pot ma-aminasa un` presineru. Komprendiyon estau presineru lau kase man-malefa na tautau i mafafana` na prohimu. Dispues, iridau tatalu` i prohimu ni mahalan gotpe ginen kuatton presu. Pinasensia yan to`a na modun inadiñgan libianu ha pribene inachachag entalu` presineru yan guatdia.

■■■

Ma-aresta un` prohimu pot sige impirau yan man-estotba `nai bulachu. Makone` halom gi polisia. Finaisen i prohimu ni sarentu haf` ginimeña. Ilegña "Budweiser". Managu` i sarentu gi un` patrolman para umachuli`e latan Budweiser. Mamaisen i patrolman para hafague`. Sinablasus tatte: "Esta hu tatagu` hau pues chule` mage chadeg!" Era tiha tuñgu` i sarentu dumiletra "Budweiser."

■■■

`Nai manunog i astronauts Amerika gi pilan sige mana`yog sa` Amerikanu finenina tumunog guihe hulu`. Dispues mali`e fina` mañila` gi lachagu`. Marikonose ya masoda` `nos kuantos Tagalu man-manununu katne. Man-mafaisen taimanu fattun niha hulu.` Ilegña i unu, "Ai, Pilipine Airline". Esta nina` kuentos un` astronaut, "Dios tiampare kulan yuus. Maseha manu man-gaige ha`!" A`saina!

■■■

Este i burukan CW-2 na hutnaleros tat ti nina` kuentos. Kontodu pot yine`ase` yan mina`ase` ginen i biblia sige mana` paha kulan mohon direchu. I asuntu pot kontratan temporariu na cho`chu`. `An magpu` i kontrata debi u bira siha tatte gi tanu` niha. I lai federat pot immigrasion ti sumasaunau yine`ase` yan fatsu na kadu` direchu. Ritira hau gigon magpu` i kontrata! Gaige este gi lai USPL 110-229.

■■■

Ilegña un` Bangladeshi na apmamgue` sumaga Saipan ayu na guaha direchoña sumaga guine. Huna` klaruye na i kontrata pot temporariu na cho`chu`. Taya` gi applikasioña probision inakonfotma para u saga guine dispues de `nos kuantos años. Aike sa` mañoda` finatinasña na direchu. Ilegña na man-tai ase` tautau Marianas. Hu sablasus na lai federat dumispopone asuntun immigrason. Mamatkilu. Pindehote!

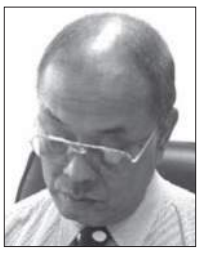
■■■

Guaha lokue` un` mauleg na amiguhu Tagalu sige puminite na hagasgue` guine pot mas ke bente años. Kulan lugat niha Saipan. Hu kanifise umesplikaye na i lai federat pot temporariu na cho`chu`. `An monhayan debi u birague` tatte gi tano`ña. Ni lehislatura yan gobietnu mantai fuetsa tumulaika areglun lai federat.

Magahet na man-namase` pot man-payon guine. Lau mientras man-gagaige guine ni ñgai`an i banda praibet `nai u hatsa i sueddu sa` payun sumen baratu na apas ni ma-apapase tautau hiyuñg. Poresu na megai gi famaguon-ta madiñgu i tanu` pot baratun sueddu yan taya` appottunidat para siha. Dinanche na areglu para i tautau-ta! Ni u fañgate lagu` haga` tat mas ke tautau-ta finenina!

■■■

I USCIS kontodu Guam ha disapprueba ginagauña hutnaleros.



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

I kompania ni chumage umappella kausan niha debi u apase kase $3,000 kada unu. Memegaiña lumetke ma-appellan este na asuntu pot mampos guaguan. Kase ni achog iya Marianas siempre u matasa parehu na mutta gi kada kausa. Estague` un` puntu ni umestotba kompania siha guine. Hu komprende na lai federat ya presisu ta estudiaye kau tiha estotba este direchon iya Marianas gi bandan self-government.

■■■

Mamaisen un` patgon biyinariu tres pesus para u famahan yan nobiaña na`niha hamburger. Inatan ni tata. Ha lagnos i amku` tres pesus ya hana`e lahiña, ilegña, "Estague, ya otru biahe fan espiha palao`an ni labaratu!" De dios mihu!

■■■

Humanau si Pedron Malas mamaisen petmissu gi as San Pedro para u akamu`. Inatan dispues ilegña amku`, "Ya haf` taimanu i tres na linilesmu guihe huyuñg?" Ha hedugue` si Duñg ya ilegña na ti hahasñgun. Sinablasus tatte as San Pedro, "Tres na bastatdu gi tres difirientes na famalao`an ya ti un` hasñgun?" Esta pa`gu ti uma`asagua si Duñg.

■■■

Man-hanau un` familia para Disneyland. `Nai mattu gi entrada ilegña un` tablon, "Disneyland Left". Duru i famaguon mañgake sa` mandiniñgu ni Disneyland. Era direksion akague!

■■■

Un` minachom atdau, sige hu ebalua kada patgon deste kustumbre, edukasion, offisiu, bittun yine`ase`, gineftau yan otru siha. Magahet na mañgalagtos na famaguon. Kuattru muna` fonhayan kolehu ya huli`e na man-edukau gi ineyag niha.

Desde umadiñgan yan mañgge` esta man-maulegña ke guahu. `An huna` fan dibate anog eskaleran edukau na inadiñgan asuntu siha. Namagof sa` man-arespeta opiñion. Mas namagof `nai huli`e na man-apinitiye.

Orlando shooting: Struggling to find faith during tragedy

ORLANDO, Fla. — Eighteen years ago, my wife's father was walking his dog when a plane crashed … on him.

He was recently retired, newly married and ready to start the twilight of his life when a Piper Aerostar carrying four guys on a golfing trip plunged out of the sky near Myrtle Beach, S.C., crashing right next to him and engulfing him in a fireball.

After six days in a medically induced coma, with third-degree burns on 90 percent of his body, his heart and lungs finally gave out.

From the moment it happened, we were plagued with what-if's.

What if he had just walked 5 minutes earlier? Or 5 minutes later? What if he had walked left instead of right?

But along with the practical what-if's, there were also the spiritual why's.

Why would a gracious God allow something so senseless? So violent? So bad to someone so good?

It's the same question people of faith are asking now about last weekend's shooting in Orlando: Why?

So when my church asked me to speak last week at a vigil for the victims, I had to be very honest with the congregation:

I don't know.

If they had come to church that night hoping to hear some incredibly enlightened, soul-satisfying answer to that question, I apologized for being unable to provide it.

You see, I've listened to many wise and scholarly people on this topic. But never has one left my wife and I thinking: Yeah, God, we get it. We get why this plane crash was meant to end five lives, including a man who was merely walking his dog.

That may be our spiritual shortcoming. But I'm pretty sure many people — including devout ones — will never look back at the bloody pre-dawn hours at Pulse last weekend and say: Yes, that mass murder now makes perfect sense.

I've come to accept that faith doesn't provide easy answers to every why.

But I find comfort in knowing that it does give us a pretty good road map for what we need to do, when we need to do it, how we should do it and where we need to go to get it all done.

We are seeing evidence of all that all over the world — people of all faiths and no faiths — opening their hearts, their wallets and even their veins.

They are people deciding not to be overcome by evil, but attempting to overcome evil with good.

Tragedies tend to inspire us that way. When we witness the worst, we summon our best.

We are so good at responding to the big, bold and bad.

Yet often, when we witness simpler problems, basic needs and lower profile sins, we look away … because it's easier.

And that is where I think we fall short.

If someone we know says something derogatory about an entire class of people, it's easier to just let it slide.

If someone we like says something we know is prejudiced, it's easier to feign a smile and look away.

If a politician proposes something we know is discriminatory, we find reasons to excuse it.

Please don't misunderstand me to say that I think anyone's silence or words caused last weekend's massacre. Words from one person will never excuse the actions of another.

But sometimes those words can nourish a culture of hate.

If you hear someone say over and over that one class of people is different — that they don't deserve the same rights as everyone else … that they should be kept at a distance … how can it not dehumanize them?

How can it not devalue their lives? Whether it's gays, Jews, Muslims, blacks or anyone else.

We are good at responding to the big fiery explosions.

By SCOTT MAXWELL
Orlando Sentinel

I'm not sure we're doing enough to douse the sparks.

It's wonderful that people of faith have gathered and prayed in the days following last week's massacre.

But vigils and tears aren't enough.

One of my favorite quotes attributed to Pope Francis says:

"You pray for the hungry. And then you feed them. That's how prayer works."

If we're instructed to serve others and combat hate, that can't start when tragedy strikes and fade when the TV trucks leave town.

You never know which day will be your last … which is another lesson I've taken away.

No matter what policy changes this country adopts — regarding guns, immigration or anything else — we will never be able to stop every single madman with a gun or a bomb.

So the question I've asked myself is: What would my legacy be?

If this was the last day I live, the last dog I ever walk or the last night I ever dance, how would the world remember me? How would my children? How would my God?

Did I respond when disaster struck? But also, did I speak up when evil and need surfaced in smaller, subtler ways?

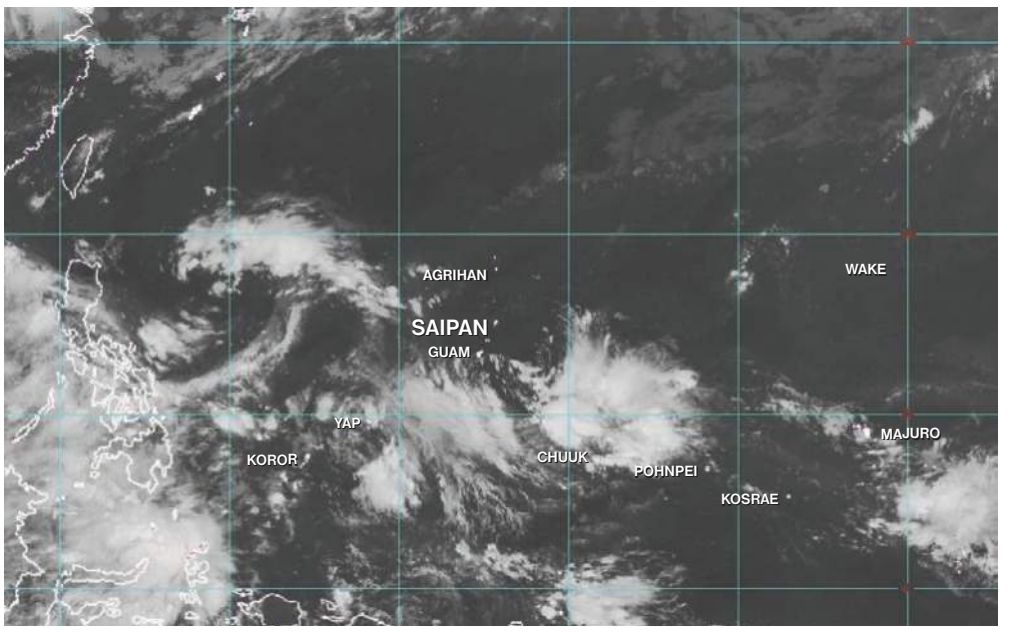
Basically, did I spread light or nourish the darkness?

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲91° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼79°	▲90° ▼80°	▲90° ▼80°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered near 17N130E. Divergence to the east of the center is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms well north of Koror and Yap within 130 miles of a line from 20N130E to 17N142E and west of a line from 15N132E to 8N132E. Another upper-level low is centered east of the CNMI near 14N147E. Diverging winds associated with this system are igniting scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over and south of Guam between 10N and 14N from 143E to 147E. Scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen from east of the CNMI, across Chuuk to west of Pohnpei between 6N and 13N from 147E to 157E. A weak circulation centered southwest of Koror near 5N130E is interacting with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in patchy areas between 4n and 10n from 132e to 141e. Trade-wind convergence is responsible for scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well south of Chuuk, south of 2N from 148E to 153E. A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ162E to 9N172E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼81
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81

Around the Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲65	▼57
Beijing	Thunderstorms	▲95	▼74
Hong Kong	Clear	▲88	▼80
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲74	▼61
Los Angeles	Clear	▲89	▼71
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲91	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
6 New York	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼67
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼74
Paris	Light Rain	▲83	▼69
Pusan	Cloudy	▲75	▼68
Rome	Clear	▲89	▼68
Salem	Clear	▲77	▼51
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲88	▼67
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲67	▼77
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲89	▼68

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.16 Feet
7:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.85 Feet
3:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.34 Feet
10:11 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.93 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:16 PM	7:08 AM
Thursday	9:05 PM	8:02 AM
Friday	9:53 PM	8:56 AM
Saturday	10:39 PM	9:51 AM
Sunday	11:25 PM	10:46 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 15, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Business

Clinton seeking to disqualify Trump on handling of economy

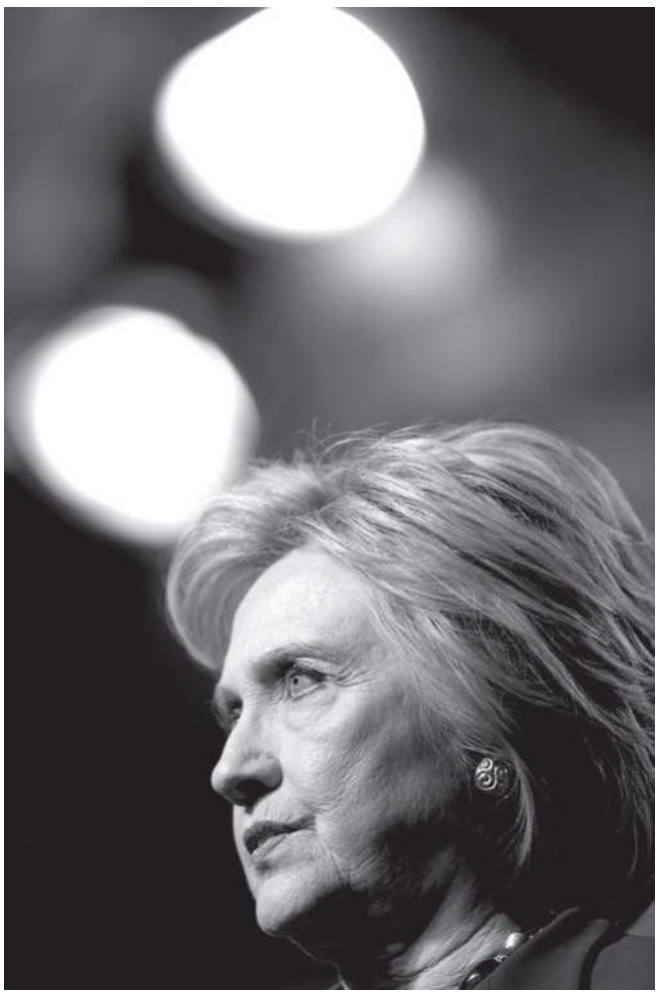
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton plans to portray Republican Donald Trump as an erratic and unfit steward of the nation's economy, returning to Ohio to press the case that workers would bear the brunt of the business mogul's policies.

Clinton's Tuesday address in Ohio, one of the nation's most prominent swing states, will aim to place a marker on the economy in a similar manner in which she did on foreign policy earlier this month with a searing takedown of Trump in San Diego.

"If we put Donald Trump behind the steering wheel of the economy, he is very likely to drive us off the cliff," said Clinton campaign senior policy adviser Jake Sullivan previewing her remarks.

The former secretary of state's address at an alternative high school in Columbus will question Trump's temperament to guide the economy and point to his business record as evidence of how he would treat small businesses and working families if he won the White House.

Bolstered by more than $40 million in television advertising, Clinton and her Democratic allies are trying to use this period before the summer Democratic National Convention to disqualify Trump on the economy and prevent him from successfully wooing working-class voters in battleground states like Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan.



AP

This June 10, 2016, file photo shows Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pausing while speaking during a Planned Parenthood Action Fund membership event, in Washington.

Laying the groundwork, Clinton's campaign seized on a report Monday by Moody's Analytics which found Trump's plans would lead to a "lengthy recession," costing nearly 3.5 million American jobs. The analysis by Moody's Mark Zandi, a former economic advisor to Republican Sen. John McCain's 2008 campaign, predicted Trump's approach would swell the federal debt as the nation's economy becomes more isolated by less trade and cross-border immigration.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook, in an interview with Ari Rabin-Havt on SiriusXM's The Agenda, said Trump would start "trade wars" overseas that would hurt the nation's manufacturing sector.

Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, has pointed to trade as a major difference with Clinton, saying last week that her support of past trade deals such as the North American Free Trade Agreement had cost the country "millions of jobs." He also has assailed her promotion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal as Obama's secretary of state as a sell-out of U.S. workers. Clinton announced her opposition to the so-called TPP last October, saying it failed to meet her test of providing good jobs, raising wages and protecting national security.

Clinton also planned to make a more proactive case on the economy on Wednesday in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sullivan said she would lay out the "progressive economic agenda" she would embrace to help workers who have not yet benefited from the economic recovery.

Wal-Mart to sell Chinese online business to retailer JD.com

NEW YORK (AP)—Wal-Mart is selling its Chinese online business to the country's No. 2 e-commerce site in a strategic partnership that it hopes will bolster its presence in the extraordinarily lucrative but increasingly competitive online marketplace.

The company said Monday it is giving JD.com ownership of its Yihaodian e-commerce site in China, including the brand and app. Wal-Mart's Sam's Club China will open a flagship section on JD.com, and both companies will leverage their supply chains and broaden the range of imported goods. Wal-Mart will take a 5 percent stake in JD.com, or nearly 145 million newly issued Class A shares in the company.

The move comes as Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is trying to improve its overall business in China, now the fourth-largest international market by sales. Business has been slow and uneven, and it operates just over 400 stores despite entering the country 20 years ago. It sees bolstering its online business as the future to growth in China.

Wal-Mart says it could see a tremendous amount of traffic from JD.com's huge customer base and its same-day delivery network. JD.com has nearly 6,000 delivery and pickup stations in about 2,500 counties and districts across China. Yihaodian owns and operates only about 250 hubs.

Though JD.com's strength is in brand-name electronics, it will be able to help capitalize on Yihaodian's strong brand name and business in eastern and southern China and in important categories such as groceries and household goods.

Food is among the growing number of products that Chinese shoppers are increasingly migrating online to shop for, which is a big reason why traffic has declined at the company's namesake stores in China as well as at its rival's big stores. Sam's Clubs in China, which number 13, has been a bright spot in the China business, as the company focuses on affluent Chinese shoppers who have been embracing Western ways of shopping. Wal-Mart has sought to establish itself as a source for high-quality food in the wake of a slew of safety issues in China, and has highlighted imported food to cater to middle-class shoppers looking for premium goods.

For minorities, pain is severe decade after housing peaked

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the U.S. housing bubble peaked a decade ago, soon to burst with far-reaching consequences, the pain was particularly severe for black and Hispanic Americans.

A disproportionate number of minorities succumbed to subprime mortgages and foreclosures and lost their homes. Their collective loss of home equity and shift toward rental housing could widen America's racial and ethnic divides well into the future, according to researchers and housing advocates.

The drop in home ownership has grown so severe that it could impede wealth creation for generations of minority families, said Antoine Thompson, executive director of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, the nation's oldest minority trade association.

"We lost a lot of wealth," Thompson said. "We are reaching epidemic and crisis levels in black America."

The decline dovetails with a broader shift toward renting in the aftermath of the housing bust. An analysis by The Associated Press has found that rising rental costs and stagnant pay are making it harder to save to buy a home. Longtime homeowners, by contrast, have enjoyed rising home equity and lighter mortgage bills resulting from lower mortgage rates.

The problem is most pronounced among minorities who already had lower ownership rates before the bubble. Actions such as "redlining"—which for decades denied loans to minorities—excluded black neighborhoods from government-backed mortgages. This made it harder for minorities to buy even as the U.S. economy surged after World War II and overall home ownership rates climbed.

Many minority homeowners who bought or refinanced during the bubble eventually became trapped by predatory mortgages, some requiring no money down and monthly payments that eventually ballooned.

Obama announces new Los Angeles-based manufacturing hub

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration selected a Los Angeles group Monday to lead an effort aimed at making manufacturing companies more competitive globally by helping them consume less energy and produce less pollution.

The Smart Manufacturing Leadership Coalition in Los Angeles will receive $70 million from the federal government to establish the ninth of 15 "manufacturing hubs" that President Barack Obama wants set up across the country. The winning team of nearly 200 partners will at least match that amount.

The private-public partnership will develop smart sensors to make all types of manufacturing more efficient, Obama said at a conference designed to showcase investment opportunities in the United States.

The U.S. manufacturing sector has added over 800,000 jobs since February 2010. The industry has benefited greatly from lower natural gas prices. Obama said the creation of the manufacturing hub highlights how the United States is "running up the score" when it comes to the innovation edge companies enjoy when doing business there.

"The world is smaller than it used to be because of innovation," Obama said, adding: "that is something that can work for everyone if we do it right."

Administration officials said the manufacturing industry consumes about a third of the nation's energy. Chemical production and steel manufacturing are examples of two industries with large energy costs that could benefit through new technological breakthroughs.

"One should realize that the future's manufacturing jobs are fundamentally IT jobs," Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said.

Obama said he recognized that people are concerned about how innovation and trade are leaving some people behind, but globalization also leads to opportunities for nations to learn from each other. He said "innovation spreading and connecting the globe promises prosperity and reductions in poverty and, ultimately, less likelihood of war and violence and conflict."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,804.87	2,083.25	4,837.21
+129.71	+12.03	36.88
0.73%	0.58%	0.77%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3371	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7602	Philippine Peso	46.3695
British Pound	0.6801	Indian Rupee	67.4754	Singapore Dollar	1.3425
Canadian Dollar	1.2788	Indonesian Rupiah	13285	South Korean Won	1156.3
Chinese Yuan	6.5749	Japanese Yen	104.35	Swiss Franc	0.9606
Euro	0.8824	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0554	Taiwan Dollar	32.245
		New Zealand Dollar	1.4058	Thailand Baht	35.2005

Nation

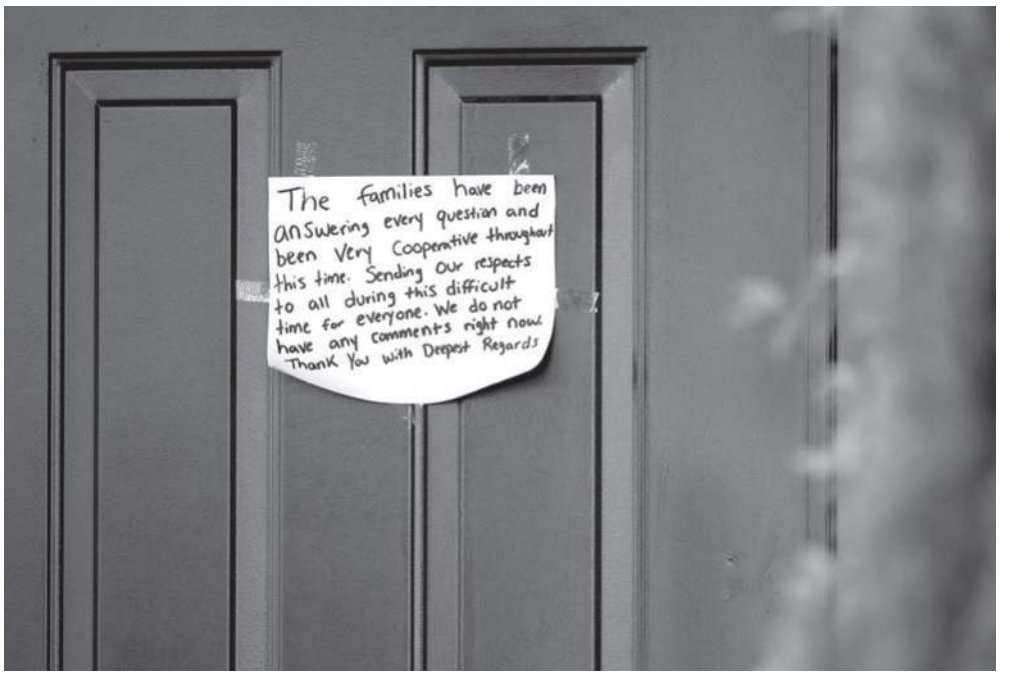
911 transcript: Orlando gunman said he was Islamic soldier

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Orlando gunman Omar Mateen identified himself as an Islamic soldier in calls with authorities during his rampage and warned a crisis negotiator that in coming days "you're going to see more of this type of action going on," according to transcripts released by the FBI on Monday.

The partial transcripts were of a 911 call made by Mateen and three conversations he had with the police crisis negotiators during the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, in which 49 people died and dozens were wounded.

Those communications, along with Facebook posts and searches Mateen made around the time of the shootings, add to the public understanding of the final hours of Mateen's life and to the possible motivations behind the rampage.

The first call came more than a half-hour after shots rang out, when Mateen told a 911 operator, "Praise be to God, and prayers as well as peace be upon the prophet of God," he told the dispatcher, referring to God in Arabic.


The families have been
answering every question and
been very cooperative throughout
this time. Sending our respects
to all during this difficult
time for everyone. We do not
have any comments right now.
Thank You with Deepest Regards

AP

A note stating that the family has no comments, is taped to the door of the home of Seddique Mir Mateen, father of Omar Mateen, Friday, June 17, 2016, in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

"I let you know, I'm in Orlando and I did the shootings."

During the 50-second call with a dispatcher, Mateen "made murderous statements in a "chilling, calm and deliberate manner," Ronald Hopper, FBI assistant special agent in charge in Orlando, said during a news conference.

However, there is no evidence Mateen was directed by a foreign terrorist group, and he was radicalized domestically and on his own, Hopper said.

Mateen's name and the groups and people to whom he pledged allegiance were initially omitted from the excerpt. But the Justice Department reversed course later Monday, providing a more complete transcript confirming Mateen pledged allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State. The extremist group encourages its followers who seek to commit violence in its name to make public pledges of support.

The Justice Department said in a statement it initially withheld the names so as not to give extremists "a publicity platform for hateful propaganda," but the omissions became an unnecessary distraction.

Shortly after the call with a 911 operator, Mateen had three conversations with crisis negotiators in which he identified himself as an Islamic soldier and told a negotiator to tell America to stop bombing Syria and Iraq. He said that was why he was "out here right now," according to the excerpt.

City officials have refused to provide hundreds of 911 calls to The Associated Press and a coalition of news organizations, citing confidentiality under Florida law, and arguing that an ongoing investigation kept the tapes secret. Hopper also said Monday that the tapes would not be released out of respect for the victims.

"Yes, the audio was compelling, but to expose that now would be excruciatingly painful to exploit them in this way," Hopper said.

Hopper also said: "Part of redacting is to not give credence to individuals who have done terrorist acts in the past. They are not going to propagate their violent rhetoric."

The AP and others requested the 911 tapes and related data, a common practice after such major events. The recordings could offer insight into how law enforcement responded.

Also at Monday's news conference, Orlando police Chief John Mina said that if any fire from responding officers hit victims at the club, gunman Mateen bears the responsibility. He wouldn't give further details but said: "Here's what I will tell you. Those killings are on the suspect, on the suspect alone in my mind." He stressed that the officers "acted heroically."

Mina acknowledged that questions have been raised by media outlets and the public about whether Orlando police waited too long after the start of the rampage at 2 a.m. to send in a SWAT team about 5 a.m.

A divided Senate answers Orlando with gridlock on gun curbs

WASHINGTON (AP)—A divided Senate blocked rival election-year plans to curb guns Monday, eight days after the horror of Orlando's mass shooting intensified pressure on lawmakers to act but knotted them in gridlock anyway—even over restricting firearms for terrorists.

In largely party-line votes, senators rejected one proposal from each side to keep extremists from acquiring guns and a second shoring up the government's system of required background checks for many firearms purchases.

With the chamber's visitors' galleries unusually crowded for a Monday evening— including relatives of victims of past mass shootings and people wearing orange T-shirts saying #ENOUGH gun violence - each measure fell short of the 60 votes needed to progress. Democrats called the GOP proposals unacceptably weak while Republicans said the Democratic plans were too restrictive.

The stalemate underscored the pressure on each party to stand firm on the emotional gun issue going into November's presidential and congressional elections. It also highlighted the potency of the National Rifle Association, which urged its huge and fiercely loyal membership to lobby senators to oppose the Democratic bills.

"Republicans say, 'Hey look, we tried,'" said Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "And all the time, their cheerleaders, the bosses at the NRA, are cheering them."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the Orlando shootings—in which the FBI says the American-born gunman swore allegiance to a Islamic State group leader—show the best way to prevent extremists' attacks here is to defeat them overseas.

"No one wants terrorists to be able to buy guns," McConnell said. He suggested that Democrats used the day's votes "to push a partisan agenda or craft the next 30-second campaign ad."

That Monday's four roll-call votes occurred at all was testament to the political currents buffeting lawmakers after gunman Omar Mateen's June 12 attack on a gay nightclub. The 49 victims who died made it the largest mass shooting in recent U.S. history, topping a string of such incidents that have punctuated recent years.

The FBI said Mateen—a focus of two terror investigations that were dropped—described himself as an Islamic soldier in a 911 call during the shootings. That let gun control advocates add national security and the specter of terrorism to their arguments for firearms curbs.

After the votes, presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton issued a one-word statement, "Enough," followed by the names and ages of Orlando's victims.

On Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor," expected GOP presidential nominee Donald Trump said he "absolutely" agrees that people on the government's terror watch list should be barred from owning guns. He did not say if he supported the Republican or Democratic versions of bills rejected Monday.

Trump fires his campaign manager in dramatic shake-up

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump abruptly fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski on Monday in a dramatic shake-up designed to calm panicked Republican leaders and end an internal power struggle plaguing the billionaire businessman's unconventional White House bid.

In dismissing his longtime campaign chief—just a month before the party's national convention—Trump signaled, at least for a day, a departure from the seat-of-the-pants style that has fueled his unlikely rise in Republican politics. Perhaps more than anyone else in Trump's inner circle, the ousted aide has preached a simple mantra: "Let Trump be Trump."

"I have no regrets," Lewandowski told CNN just hours after he was escorted out of Trump's Manhattan campaign headquarters. Still, the former conservative activist seemed to acknowledge the limitations of his approach, which has sparked widespread concern among the GOP's top donors, operatives, elected officials, and even some of Trump's family members.

"The campaign needs to continue to grow to be successful," he said.

Trump, the presumptive GOP presidential nominee, described Lewandowski as a "good man" who helped "a small, beautiful, well-unified campaign" during the primary season.

"I think it's time now for a different kind of a campaign," Trump said on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor."

People close to Trump, including adult children Ivanka, Eric and Donald Jr., had long-simmering concerns about Lewandowski, who had limited experience on the national scale before becoming Trump's campaign leader. Like many Republican officials, Trump's family urged the billionaire businessman to professionalize a bare-bones campaign that had previously resisted adding staff and paid advertising heading into the general election.

A person close to Trump said Lewandowski was forced out largely because of the campaign's worsening relationship with the Republican National Committee, donors and GOP officials, who have increasingly criticized the candidate's message and campaign infrastructure in recent weeks. That person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss internal deliberations.

ACROSS THE NATION

Extreme heatwave grips Southwest on 1st day of summer

PHOENIX (AP)—As the mercury soared, records were falling. A severe heatwave ushered in the first day of summer Monday in the broiling Southwest, where extreme temperatures were blamed for at least five deaths over the weekend. Towns along the Arizona-California border were getting the brunt of the extreme temperatures on Monday. In Palm Springs, the thermometer hit 121 degrees in the early afternoon. The temperature in Phoenix broke a record and hit 116 degrees. A cool off was expected in the coming days. The National Weather Service reported 17 daily heat records were broken in Southern California on Sunday—because of a high pressure ridge over the Four Corners region of the Southwest.

Family: Colorado boy improving after mountain lion attack

DENVER (AP)—A Colorado boy attacked by a mountain lion near Aspen was improving in a Denver hospital after his mother snatched him from the jaws of the wild cat, his family said Monday. "Thank you for your concern," the unnamed family said in a brief statement released on its behalf by Children's Hospital Colorado. "Our son is doing better. Thank you for respecting our privacy at this time." A Pitkin County sheriff's officer had praised the mother as a hero for charging the animal during Friday's attack on her 5-year-old, yanking away one of its paws and prying open its jaws. The boy was flown to Denver with deep but not life-threatening cuts to his head, face and neck. His mother had scratches and bites. Mountain lions rarely attack humans.

Asia

PH, Indonesia, Malaysia agree to act vs Abu Sayyaf

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed Monday to take possible coordinated actions, including sea and air patrols, to stop an alarming wave of cross-border kidnappings and boat attacks by Abu Sayyaf extremists and other outlaws.

Philippine Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said no accord was signed during talks with his Malaysian and Indonesian counterparts in Manila because he wanted the administration of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte, who would be inaugurated on June 30, to formalize any such border security arrangement.

Gazmin's designated successor, retired army Maj. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana, joined the meeting at his invitation. It follows an initial meeting by the three foreign ministers last month that was hosted by Indonesia and underscored the alarm over the Abu Sayyaf's continuing attacks despite repeated assurances of tighter security by Malaysia and the Philippines.

"The ministers raised concern over the recent incidents of kidnappings and armed robbery at sea in the maritime areas of common concern," the defense chiefs, who included Hishammuddin Hussein of Malaysia and Ryamizard Ryacudu of Indonesia, said in a joint statement.

They reaffirmed the need and collective responsibility of the countries to address such threats, it said.

After staging ransom kidnappings of Malaysian and foreign tourists in Malaysia's Sabah state in recent years, Abu Sayyaf gunmen and allied militants successively attacked three tugboats starting in March, kidnapping a total of 18 Indonesian and Malaysian crewmen.

The captives were freed in batches from the militants' jungle bases in the southern Philippine province of Sulu reportedly in exchange for huge ransoms. The militants have separately beheaded two Canadian hostages, who were seized from a southern Philippine marina, after a ransom deadline lapsed, sparking condemnations from Canada and a major Philippine military offensive.

Gazmin told The Associated Press by telephone that the proposed actions include setting up a database on extremists and establishing joint military command posts in designated areas. Coordinated security actions are delicate because the Philippines has a territorial claim to Malaysia's easternmost state of Sabah on Borneo Island.

The proposals would be studied before being formalized in an agreement that may be signed within the year, he said.

AP

This file image made from undated militant video, shows Canadians Robert Hall, left, and John Ridsdel, right.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Duterte team aims for 30 percent cut in PH poverty

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Incoming President Rodrigo Duterte's economic team is aiming to cut the Philippines' poverty rate by at least 30 to 35 percent within his six-year term, focusing on projects to lift the rural poor. Incoming Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez told a media briefing of Duterte's economic team Monday in southern Davao City that they plan to reduce poverty rate, now afflicting 25.2 percent or a quarter of 100 million Filipinos, by 1.25 percent to 1.5 percent each year until 2022. Incoming Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno says the government will spend within the first year about 1 trillion pesos ($21.5 billion) or nearly a third of total government budget, on simultaneous small- and medium-scale public infrastructure projects like farm-to-market roads and schools that are easier to do within a year.

Pakistan Afghanistan discuss border tensions after clashes

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan and Afghanistan held talks Monday in Islamabad on last week's deadly border clashes that killed two Afghan border guards and a Pakistani officer. A statement after the meeting said both nations emphasized the need to create a mechanism for consulting one another on border issues. The two neighbors last week traded several bouts of deadly gunfire and artillery at the Torkham border after Pakistan started building a fence on its side, each side accusing the other of starting the violence. Afghanistan does not recognize the present boundary, the so-called Durand Line, as an international border. After the clashes had stopped, Pakistan reopened the crossing on Saturday, allowing thousands of stranded travelers to cross.

Taliban suicide bombing kills 14 Nepalese guards in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A Taliban suicide bomber killed 14 Nepalese security guards in an attack Monday on their minibus in the Afghan capital, the Interior Ministry and an Afghan security official said. Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a bomb rigged to a motorbike killed 10 Afghan civilians during morning rush hour in a busy market. A second Taliban bombing in Kabul killed an Afghan civilian and wounded five people, including a provincial council member who was the intended target of that attack, authorities said. The Nepalese were on their way to the Canadian Embassy, where they work as guards, when the explosion took place on Monday morning, according to a Nepalese guard who was wounded in the attack.

Before hearing, Pyongyang pushes claim South abducted women

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—As South Korea's main spy agency prepares a courtroom defense of its continued detention of 12 North Korean waitresses it says fled from China, Pyongyang is using the women's relatives and colleagues to step up its accusations that they were tricked into leaving their jobs and essentially kidnapped.

The case has become a bitter point of contention between the two Koreas. Pyongyang claims South Korea's National Intelligence Service abducted the waitresses. Seoul says they came to the South of their own free will and don't want to go back to North Korea.

The women are in South Korean custody and have yet not been allowed to freely tell their story in public. In response to a legal filing by South Korean human rights lawyers, the NIS must prove that the North Koreans are being lawfully detained. A closed-door hearing in the case is set for Tuesday at Seoul Central Court; the restaurant workers are not expected to testify.

On Saturday in Pyongyang, North Korean authorities allowed an Associated Press Television crew to interview some of the colleagues and parents of the waitresses who are now in South Korea. The interviews were conducted freely with no questions submitted in advance, but it is common for authorities to coach interviewees beforehand to make sure they stay on message.

Former waitresses Choe Rye Yong and Han Yun Hui said they worked with the 12 women for more than two years at the North Korean-run Azalea Friendship Restaurant in Ningbo, China. Choe and Han said they chose not to go with them and instead returned to Pyongyang. They did not say exactly what transpired.

News of Tuesday's hearing has not been announced by the North's state-run media, but Choe and Han said North Korean authorities had told them about it. They said they can't understand why the hearing is closed.

"The fact that it's closed means that they don't want to let our colleagues say what they want to say," said Choe, who was the head waitress at the Azalea.

Tens of thousands of North Koreans have defected to South Korea over decades of division, and in recent years North Korea has tried to step up efforts to prevent further defections.

Thai drunken drivers get gory lesson at the morgue

BANGKOK (AP)—Several convicted drunken drivers were brought to a Bangkok morgue Monday to see a corpse and reflect on the gory consequences of their actions as part of a program aimed at combating the carnage on Thailand's roads.

Thailand has the world's second-worst record for traffic fatalities, according to the World Health Organization, just behind Libya. Most of the road accidents are caused by drunken driving.

The morgue campaign was first introduced in April during Thailand's traditional New Year holiday, known as Songkran. The holiday puts thousands of people on the road, as Thais return to their home villages for reunions and celebrations, typically fueled by alcohol. The government has dubbed the seven-day holiday—during which an estimated 2.3 people die and 160 are injured in road accidents every hour—"The Seven Days of Danger."

The Department of Probation, which set up the program, said that since April, more than 1,700 drunken drivers have been taken to dozens of morgues nationwide.

"In the past, we have tried campaigns, but the statistics were not going down. So why not try other activities? What kind of activity would create more shock and worry?" said Prasarn Mahaleetrakul, deputy director of the Department of Probation. "So we came up with this project. Drunken driving—you get sent to the morgue."

Media were invited to a photo-op on Monday, when the program came to Bangkok for the first time.

Inside the morgue at Bangkok's Taksin Hospital, four convicted drunken drivers were handed rags to first wipe down the stainless steel gurneys where corpses are laid and then gathered around a body, covered by a white sheet with feet and hands hanging out.

World

Iran says it disrupts major Sunni 'terrorist' plot amid wars

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran said Monday it broke up one of the "biggest terrorist plots" ever on its soil by Sunni extremists planning bombings in Tehran and elsewhere, emphasizing that the Shiite power could be facing threats at home for its military actions in Iraq and Syria.

Iran faces several low-level insurgencies, but a major militant attack hasn't struck Tehran since the years immediately following its 1979 Islamic Revolution.

That fact, coupled with authorities' suggestions the Sunni militants of the Islamic State group may be behind the plot, significantly raises the danger that Iran could face the same sectarian violence drowning Iraq and Syria, where its actions have earned the hatred of Sunni hard-liners.

"I don't think anyone should be surprised if anything like this were to happen in Iran," said Ellie Geranmayeh, a policy fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations. "Iran has made itself a number of enemies. But so far, what has been surprising in Iran is that they've managed to contain the threat."

An Intelligence Ministry statement read on state TV and carried by local news agencies offered few details of the plot. It said authorities made arrests, seized bombs and ammunition and that investigations continued "inside and outside of the country."

The semi-official Fars and ISNA news agencies quoted Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, as saying the attack was timed to hit during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency, citing the Intelligence Ministry, said the attack was supposed to come on the anniversary of the death of the Prophet Muhammad's wife, Khadija, which was marked Thursday in small ceremonies across Iran.

AP

This picture taken on Monday, June 6, 2016 shows a general view of Tehran, Iran. Iranian intelligence officials have broken up one of the "biggest terrorist" plots ever planned to target Tehran and other provinces in the Islamic Republic, the country's state media reported on Monday.

The reports didn't identify those arrested and interrogated, though it called them "takfiris," a derogatory term in both Arabic and Farsi referring to Sunnis who accuse other Muslims of being infidels. Iranian authorities and others throughout the Middle East often refer to Islamic State fighters as "takfiris."

Calls to the Intelligence Ministry rang unanswered Monday.

In Syria, Iranian troops backing embattled President Bashar Assad in his country's bloody civil war have fought Islamic State extremists and other rebel groups. Iranian casualties in the war have mounted in recent months, and the Islamic State group often mentions Iran in its propaganda messages. Iranian militias and advisers also are backing Iraq's government against IS fighters.

IRNA, however, called those involved in the plot "Wahhabi takfiris" in its Farsi report on the arrests. Wahhabism is an ultraconservative Sunni ideology practiced predominantly in Saudi Arabia that the Islamic State group has incorporated into its apocalyptic beliefs.

British farmers crave independence but fear cost of EU exit

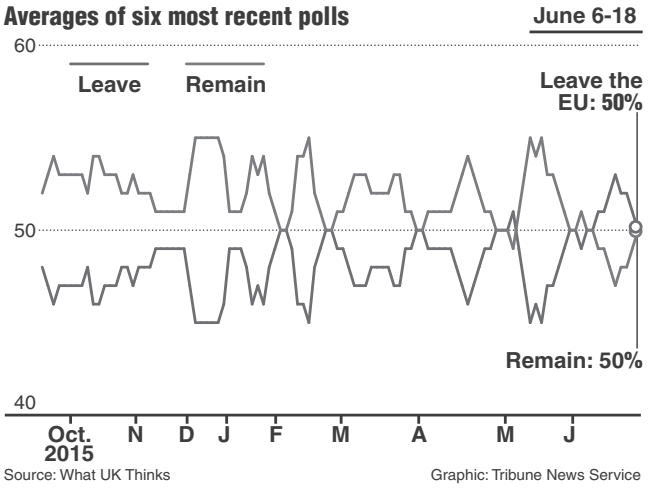
CAPEL-LE-FERNE, England (AP)—Rob Warnock is a proud British farmer and the son of a proud British farmer, and he hopes his son will follow in his footsteps one day.

He's also a European Union farmer, but that is not a legacy Warnock wants to pass on to his 6-year-old son. Warnock plans to vote this week for Britain to leave the EU, even though it could cost his struggling dairy business dear.

"As soon as I heard there would be a referendum, I knew I'd be 'out' without even thinking about it," he said, as sheep and calves grazed in a field on his family farm. "It's just what my heart says."

Many British farmers feel the same emotional tug. But while their hearts tell them to leave, their heads urge caution. The EU is helping farmers stay afloat at a time when many are struggling.

The benefits of membership in the 28-nation EU may seem intangible to many Britons, who view it as a distant body of byzantine bureaucracy and obscure regulations. But farmers know exactly how much they get from the bloc. In Warnock's case it's 40,000 pounds ($60,000) a year—his share of the subsidy millions of farmers across the continent receive under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.



"People say, 'You're mad to vote out when you could lose 40,000 pounds,'" Warnock said. "(But) I think what we could have in the end would be better."

He desperately needs things to improve. The price of milk has been plunging for more than two years, hit by what Warnock calls a "perfect storm" of factors, including Russia's ban on EU imports, Chinese stockpiling of powdered milk and production increases in other EU countries.

That's disastrous for 44-year-old Warnock, who tends 450 dairy cows and grows barley and wheat on 650 acres (263 hectares) perched above the English Channel on Britain's south coast.

"We're being paid 18 pence a liter for our milk at the moment, and it costs us 28 pence a liter to produce," he said. "Every time that (milk) tanker drives out the yard, it's another 600 quid (pounds) that we've lost."

Sian Davies, dairy adviser for the National Farmers' Union, says dire market conditions may be nudging British farmers toward the EU exit door.

"A lot of farmers will be looking at their referendum vote as a vote for change," she said. "It could be looked at as 'Anything's better than what we have at the moment.'"

Officials, union trade blame for deadly Mexico clashes

OAXACA, Mexico (AP)—Mexican authorities and protesters on Monday traded accusations of responsibility for weekend clashes that left at least six people dead and more than 100 wounded in the restive southern state of Oaxaca.

Federal Police Chief Enrique Galindo, speaking on local Radio Formula, said few teachers were involved in the violence and attributed it to other, unspecified "radical groups."

However the radical teachers' union involved in the protests denied that and alleged that police infiltrators were to blame.

The clashes are the latest flashpoint in an ongoing battle for control of public education in Oaxaca, where the union is resisting government attempts to implement national education reforms passed under President Enrique Pena Nieto.

Galindo said things initially went smoothly Sunday when officers moved to reopen the highway around 7 a.m. after it had been blocked by protesters. Traffic flow resumed for about two hours following dialogue between unarmed police and demonstrators from the National Coordinator of Education Workers, or CNTE.

But later the crowd swelled to about 2,000 protesters, some of them armed with gasoline bombs and powerful fireworks, Galindo added. When police confirmed gunshots, he ordered armed police to move in.

"It was a radical change of scene," Galindo said. "It was practically an ambush."

He reported that seven officers suffered bullet wounds, others had serious burns on their hands and feet and some lost fingers.

Six people were killed and more than 100 were wounded before police pulled back, he said, adding that "staying in Nochixtlan would have brought more serious consequences."

Oaxaca state Gov. Gabino Cue said all the dead were civilians and two had ties to the CNTE union.

UN urges solutions as refugee population hits record high

GENEVA (AP)—Imagine the entire population of France uprooted from their homes, forced to flee danger, persecution or starvation. The U.N. refugee agency says more people than that—65 million—were displaced worldwide at the end of last year, easily setting a new postwar record.

And it warned that European and other rich nations can expect the flow to continue if root causes aren't addressed.

After a year when more than a million people arrived on European shores, UNHCR said Monday—World Refugee Day—that continued conflicts and persecution in places like Syria and Afghanistan fueled a nearly 10-percent increase in the total number of refugees and internally displaced people in 2015.

"I hope that the message carried by those forcibly displaced reaches the leaderships: We need action, political action, to stop conflicts," said Filippo Grandi, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. "The message that they have carried is: 'If you don't solve problems, problems will come to you.'"

The Geneva-based agency's latest Global Trends Report shows that for the first time since World War II, the 60-million mark was crossed.

"If these 65.3 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 21st largest in the world," the report said.

In stark detail, UNHCR said that, on average, 24 people had been displaced every minute last year—or 34,000 people a day—up from six every minute in 2005. The total number of displaced people has roughly doubled since 1997, and risen by 50 percent since 2011 alone, when the Syria war began.

About 11.5 million people from Syria have fled their homes: 6.6 million remaining within the war-ravaged country and 4.9 million moving abroad. At the end of last year, more than half of all refugees were from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia. More than half of all displaced people were children, UNCHR said.

Turkey was the top host country for the second year running, with 2.5 million refugees—nearly all from neighboring Syria. Afghanistan's neighbor Pakistan had 1.6 million, while Lebanon, next to Syria, hosted 1.1 million.

"The scale of this human suffering is almost unimaginable; the need for the world to respond is beyond question," said U.S. President Barack Obama, adding that he planned to convene a summit on refugees in September when world leaders meet for the U.N. General Assembly.

Focus

PICKING SIDES: A world of opinions on South China Sea case

WASHINGTON (AP)—A case brought by U.S. ally the Philippines against China represents a diplomatic dilemma for far-flung nations as Washington and Beijing rally support for their respective positions on the use of international arbitration in South China Sea disputes.

The United States has been building diplomatic pressure in the West and in Asia on China to abide by the Hague-based tribunal's decision, which is expected soon. China, which maintains it won't be bound by the ruling, has been pushing back by building support from nations mostly in Africa and the Mideast.

The U.S. is not a party to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, under which the tribunal has been constituted, but says it wants China to play by international rules. Since there is no enforcement mechanism for the ruling, any impact will depend on how the international community reacts.

Here's a look at where dozens of countries stand:

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has been trying for years to achieve diplomatic solutions in the South China Sea, making little progress and exposing divisions in the 10-member bloc, which includes the Philippines. Reaching consensus on the Permanent Court of Arbitration ruling will be tough.

When President Barack Obama met ASEAN leaders in February they agreed on "full respect for legal and diplomatic processes" in accordance with the U.N. convention, but pro-China members Cambodia and Laos nixed any mention of "arbitration."

Vietnam, which has fought China over competing South China Sea claims, has been most supportive of the Philippines' case and submitted a statement to the tribunal. Hanoi has said it supports "full compliance" to the procedures of the convention.

But other ASEAN nations are generally wary of speaking out for fear of alienating China, the region's economic heavyweight. Malaysia and Brunei have said little about the case, though they too are South China Sea claimants.

Indonesia and Singapore are not claimants but have been a bit more outspoken. Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said last week that the ruling could have implications beyond the South China Sea and "we cannot subscribe to the principle that might is right." Indonesia's Foreign Ministry declined to say whether the ruling should be binding on both sides but said international law must be respected.

Even the Philippines' position is unpredictable as a new government takes office there June 30. President-elect Rodrigo Duterte has expressed willingness to restart bilateral negotiations with China.

RUSSIA

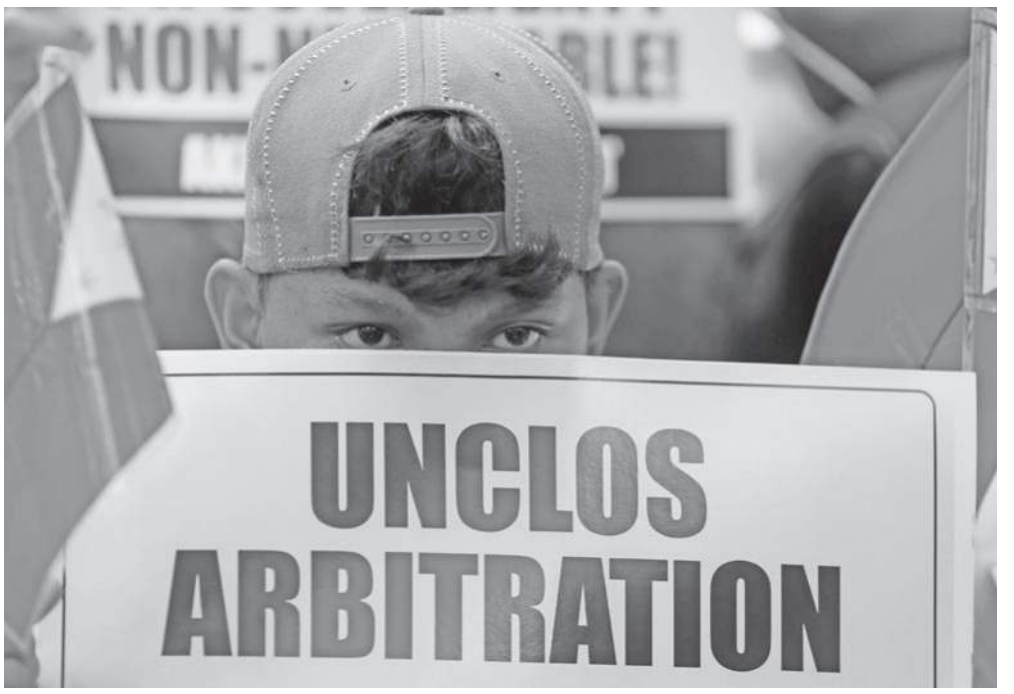
Moscow, which shares China's suspicion of Washington, is Beijing's most prominent supporter on the issue. On a visit to China in April, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia is against any interference from outside parties in the South China Sea - a reference to the U.S. - "or any attempts to internationalize these disputes." Like China, Russia says disputes should be resolved through talks between the parties directly involved.

CHINA SUPPORTERS IN AFRICA, MIDEAST

China's state news agency Xinhua on May 20 said that more than 40 countries have expressed support for China's stance on the arbitration case. The Foreign Ministry has in recent weeks given prominent mention to support it claims to have from nations principally in Africa, the Mideast and Central Asia.

But few of those foreign governments have issued statements independently. Some, including Cambodia, Laos and Fiji, have disavowed China's description of their position.

Experts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said they could confirm official statements from Afghanistan, Gambia, Niger, Sudan and Vanuatu. A Chinese statement with the 21-member Arab League supported China but it was unclear if it represented all the parties' official positions.



AP

A protester displays a placard and a Philippine flag outside of the Chinese Consulate in protest of China's occupation and island-building in the disputed Spratlys islands in the South China Sea Friday, June 10, 2016, at the financial district of Makati, Philippines. The protesters are calling on the new government to reject China's proposal of bilateral talks instead of the arbitration case filed by the Philippines in The Hague.

EUROPEAN UNION and G-7

The EU has urged all South China Sea claimants to resolve disputes through peaceful means and "pursue them in accordance with international law," including the U.N. convention. The Group of Seven wealthy nations, which comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.S. and the EU, has called on all states to fully implement decisions binding on them in courts and tribunals provided under the convention.

In June, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian proposed that European navies coordinate patrols in Asian waters to reinforce a rules-based maritime order. He warned that if the laws of the sea are not respected in that region, they could also be challenged in the Arctic Ocean or Mediterranean Sea.

AUSTRALIA

In January, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said the China-Philippines ruling will be "extremely important" as a statement of international principle and will "settle once and for all" whether artificial reefs are entitled to territorial waters. But Australia has been less outspoken in support of arbitration than the U.S., perhaps mindful of Australia's own resistance to arbitration to resolve its disputed maritime border with tiny East Timor.

INDIA

India has not issued a categorical position on arbitration case, but has been broadly supportive of the application of international law. India shares U.S. concerns about Beijing's rising ambitions in the seas of Asia.

India's External Affairs Ministry says that "all countries must abide by international law and norms on maritime issues." India set an example in 2014 when it accepted a decision by the Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration that ruled in favor of Bangladesh in a dispute over the countries' maritime boundary.

JAPAN

Japan was an early supporter of the Philippines' pursuit of arbitration and says both China and the Philippines should abide by the outcome. Japan sees that as upholding international law, but it also reflects concern that historic rival China seeks strategic control of vital sea lanes in the South China Sea that carry 80 percent of Japan's crude oil imports.

Japan's support of third-party dispute resolution is not universal. While it has sought to take its dispute with South Korea over the South Korean-held Dokdo or Takeshima islands to the International Court of Justice, it says no such action is needed in its dispute with China over the Senkaku or Diaoyu islands, which are administered by Japan.

SOUTH KOREA

Like Japan, South Korea is heavily dependent on fuel imports that pass through the South China Sea, but it has closer ties with China and has been less inclined to speak out. The Foreign Ministry says South China Sea disputes should be resolved under internationally established regulations and that it is "looking with interest" at the Philippine-China arbitration case.

TAIWAN

Taiwan has complained that the tribunal has not solicited its views. While Taipei officially exercises the same nine-dash line claim as Beijing in the South China Sea, it is primarily concerned about Taiping island in the Spratlys. Taiwan administers that remote land feature and is concerned it could be designated as a rock without the rights granted to islands.

AP

In this Oct. 19, 2012 file photo, Chinese navy vessels take part in a drill in the waters off Zhoushan in east China's Zhejiang province. Despite pressure from Washington and elsewhere, China appears determined to avoid granting any hint of legitimacy to the U.N. abitration tribunal that might challenge its claim to ownership of virtually the entire South China Sea, including its islands, reefs, fish stocks and potentially rich reserves of oil and gas.

Good Housekeeping

DIGGIN' IN: Looking for a clever way to add a little good luck to your landscape?

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS (NEWPORT NEWS, VA.)

Looking for a clever way to add a little good luck to your landscape?

Plant a clover lawn and cross your fingers it gives you lots of lucky four-leaf clovers.

Seriously, more chemical-wary homeowners are saying no to fertilizers and weed killers and opting for environmentally-friendly clover lawns.

"We love our clover, both accidental and planted," says Susan Ackerman in Newport News, Va.

"It's a tough green carpet for bikes and soccer games, bees love it and needs minimal mowing. It feels luxurious to bare feet.

In Yorktown, Va., Teri McLean Cheslak fondly remembers the green, soft and lush look and feel of the clover lawn she grew up with in Pennsylvania. Her dad never used any chemicals or fertilizers to get and keep it that way, she adds.

"It stood up to kids running and playing, and was perfect for rolling down the steep hill of our front yard," she says.

"He cut it with that whirring sound of a rotary hand mower. He taught me about nitrogen and replenishing the soil like farmers do, and used to say 'There's nothing like a good clover lawn.' "

TNS
White clover flowers in Teri McLean Cheslak's yard in Yorktown, Va.

Miniclover carpets a backyard. TNS

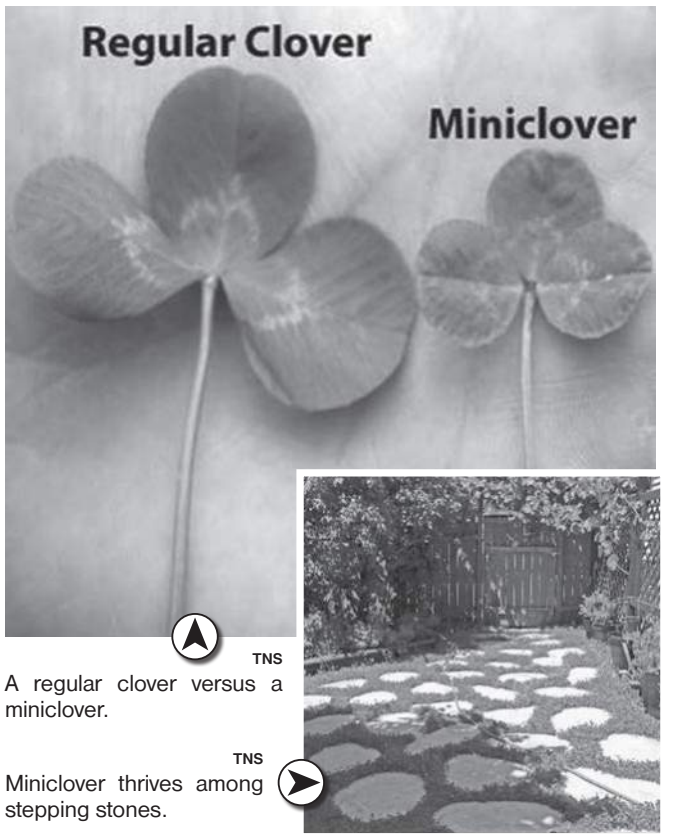
In Hampton, white clover, plantain, chickweed, dead nettles, ground ivy, pepperweed, wild violets, dandelions and peppermint all have a home in Betty Jean Burchett's yard.

"Our yard is somewhat green most of the year — just not with green grass," she says.

"Some of it is by nature and some on purpose. I wish I had red clover growing in our yard."

MINI CLOVER OPTION

If the lush green option of a clover lawn intrigues you, there is an alternative to the common white clover look.



TNS
A regular clover versus a miniclover.

TNS
Miniclover thrives among stepping stones.

Miniclover, which is about half the size of white Dutch clover, produces a thick, carpet-like appearance that blends with turf, according to a news release from Outside-Pride at www.outsidepride.com. In fact, the more you mow it, the smaller the leaf sizes grow, claims the release from the company, which sells other seeds such as crimson clover, Irish moss, bluegrass, flowers and herbs.

The smaller clover thrives in sun or part shade, and its deeper-than-turf roots help it tolerate drought, according to OutsidePride.

"If you're older than 30, you may remember your father trying to rid his manicured lawn of clover that just kept on growing," says Troy Hake, owner of Outsidepride.com.

"Today, clover has turned over a new leaf — it offers many advantages over traditional turf, which is why golf courses and sports fields in Europe have been using it for years instead of grass."

Clover benefits

■ Grows with deep roots that require less water.

■ Produces pretty flowers that attract bees and butterflies.

■ Thrives with lawn grasses, and never needs reseeding.

■ Tolerates heavy foot traffic, making it ideal for walkways.

■ Does not yellow out in winter.

■ Naturally replaces nitrogen in the soil.

■ Never browns when pets urinate on it.

■ Needs no fertilizer.

"Miniclover is especially attractive, and can help you get that thick, lush, lovely green lawn you've been looking for," says Hake.

LIVING SMART: How do I get rid of ants?

By TOM MOOR
ANGIE'S LIST

Although ants generally don't cause harm to people—they don't carry disease, like some other pests—an infestation can be a major nuisance.

"Ants can be extremely persistent creatures, seemingly coming from nowhere and can be difficult to entirely get rid of," says Kelly Garvin of Greenix Pest Control in Dublin, Ohio.

Fortunately, DIY and professional pest removal options are available.

TNS
Experts recommend using gel bait, traps or insect sprays to eliminate ants in your home, or call a professional for serious infestations.

REASONS FOR ANT INFESTATION

Ants typically invade your home for one reason: food. Most feed on sugary or greasy items.

Sugar ants — also called odorous house ants — are one of the most common ant invaders and among the first pests to show up in the spring. They're about one-eighth of an inch or smaller and are attracted to food sources.

The common pavement ant, which is brown to black and about 1/10th of an inch long, will set up colonies near driveways or patios and then send out scouts to search for food in your home. They eat meat, grease, seeds, dead or live insects, and can sting and bite if disturbed.

Carpenter ants, which are black and up to half an inch long, look for protein rather than sugar, and will eat through wood to find nesting locations. Small piles of wood shavings called "frass" found under windows or door frames are signs of carpenter ants.

Moisture ants are larger — about 4 to 4.5 mm long — and are usually an indication of excessive water somewhere. Either can be a problem in bathrooms.

Knowing what type of ant you're dealing with can help you prevent or combat an infestation.

KEEPING ANTS OUT

The first step to prevent an ant infestation: clean house. If you see scout ants in your home, kill them immediately. Make sure you don't leave any food out and keep all kitchen surfaces clean.

If you continue to see ants, make sure you've closed off possible entry points, including sealing small cracks in your walls or under windows. Start by caulking potential entry points, such as window casings.

Next, you can lay down barriers like salt or talc under doors to turn ants away, or apply scents such as vinegar, peppermint oil or cinnamon. Bear in mind, however, that anything you put down will also be of interest to pets and children, so be careful what you use.

DIY METHODS FOR ANT REMOVAL

If ant explorers have morphed into a full-on colony, then you need a plan.

Start with soap and water. This will not only kill chemical trails, but any ants it touches. Add citrus to the water to increase its effectiveness.

You can also purchase pest sprays and baited ant traps from local grocery and hardware stores. These use a mixture of sugars and ant poison, such as boric acid to attract, trap and kill ants. Proceed with caution when using poison.

Bear in mind, too, that these traps won't work on protein-feeders like carpenter ants, since the sweetness won't interest them.

In addition to trapping ants inside, you can also spray around the exterior of the home where the house meets the pavement or ground to prevent more ants from infiltrating, says David Anderson of Eastside Exterminators in Woodinville, Washington.

Garvin recommends spraying problem areas with a mixture of Windex, vinegar and water. She says spreading Diatomaceous Earth in carpeted areas around the bathroom is a safe and natural way to kill ants because it's a food source.

"The Windex or vinegar is really a quick fix and not really that effective, but it will remove the immediate ants and wipe away their pheromone scent they use to follow trails," Garvin says.

Dan Miles, owner of Total Exterminating in Indianapolis, suggests spraying all cracks around the baseboards and the base of the toilet if the infestation is in the bathroom.

HIRE A PEST CONTROL PROFESSIONAL

Large-scale infestations require assistance from a pest control professional.

Pros address ant problems by locating the colony itself; typically this starts by laying bait traps, which contain poisoned food taken back to the nest. Once found, exterminators can use a variety of techniques including chemical sprays to totally eliminate the ants in your home.

In the case of carpenter ants, early detection is critical. Left unchecked, they can cause significant damage to your home. A pest control professional may need to drill small holes in your wall to make sure the entire colony has been eliminated, and will often book a follow-up visit to make sure problems don't recur.

— Additional reporting by Angie's List Contributor Doug Bonderud

Life & Style

SUV that rolled, killed 'Star Trek' actor is under recall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The SUV that rolled down a driveway and killed "Star Trek" actor Anton Yelchin was being recalled because the gear shifters have confused drivers, causing the vehicles to roll away unexpectedly, government records show.

Yelchin, 27, a rising actor best known for playing Chekov in the rebooted series, died Sunday after his 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee pinned him against a mailbox pillar and security fence at his home, Los Angeles police said.

The 2015 model-year Grand Cherokees were part of a global recall of 1.1 million vehicles announced by automaker Fiat Chrysler in April, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration records show.

The agency urged the recall because of complaints from drivers who had trouble telling if they had put the automatic transmissions in park. If they were not in park and a driver left the vehicle, it could roll away.

Fiat Chrysler expected to send recall notification letters to owners on May 16, according to a memo to dealers, but it's not known whether Yelchin received or saw his letter. The company is working on a fix and expects to have a software update ready in July or August.

Investigators were looking into the position of Yelchin's gear shift at the time of the accident, Officer Jane Kim said. The actor had gotten out of the vehicle momentarily, but police didn't say why he was behind it when it started rolling.

Fiat Chrysler said in a statement Monday that it was investigating and it was premature to speculate on the cause of the crash.

Yelchin's death was the first that might be related to the recall, the traffic safety administration said, although several serious injuries have been reported. The agency said Monday it's in contact with police about the cause of the crash, and it urged owners of the recalled vehicles to make sure they're in park before exiting and to use the parking brake.

In this Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2014, file photo, Actor Anton Yelchin poses for portraits during the 71st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. AP

As of April, the company had reports of 212 crashes, 41 injuries and 308 property damage claims potentially caused by the shifters, it said in documents filed with the government.

The recalled vehicles, including nearly 812,000 in the U.S., have an electronic shift lever that toggles forward or backward to let the driver select the gear instead of moving along a track like a conventional shifter. A light shows which gear is selected, but to get from drive to park, drivers must push the lever forward three times.

The recalled vehicles sound a chime and issue a dashboard warning if the driver's door is opened while they are not in park. But the push-button ignition won't shut off the engine if not in park, increasing the risk of the vehicles rolling away after drivers have gotten out.

The Grand Cherokee gear shifters were changed in the 2016 model year so that it works like those in older cars.

Coroner's officials ruled Yelchin's death an accident after an autopsy. The results of any toxicology tests would not be known for months, coroner spokesman Ed Winter said.

Yelchin's friends found him dead after he failed to show up for an audition early Sunday.

His death tragically cut short the promising career of an actor whom audiences were still getting to know and who had great artistic ambition. "Star Trek Beyond," the third film in the series, comes out in July.

Director J.J. Abrams, who cast Yelchin in the franchise, wrote in a statement that he was "brilliant ... kind ... funny as hell, and supremely talented."

Cosby, due in court in July, again hopes to question accuser

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby will return to a Pennsylvania courtroom next month as he tries again to question his accuser in a sexual assault case before it is sent to trial.

The entertainer is slated to be in a suburban Philadelphia court on July 7 over the decade-old complaint involving former Temple University employee Andrea Constand.

Cosby is accused of drugging and molesting Constand in 2004. He insisted their encounter was consensual.

A lower-court judge upheld criminal sex-assault charges last month after prosecutors offered Constand's 2005 police statement as evidence at the preliminary hearing. Pennsylvania law currently allows the use of such hearsay testimony early on. However, the state Supreme Court is reviewing the issue.

Defense lawyers want the right to cross-examine Constand at the pretrial stage. Common Pleas Judge Steven T. O'Neill has agreed to weigh the request, scheduling the hearing to determine if Cosby was properly held for trial.

Prosecutors in a filing Monday said the defense has no right to "prematurely attack" Constand at a preliminary hearing. They noted that an accuser's credibility is not an issue at that stage.

Cosby, 78, remains free on $1 million bail. O'Neill has not yet set a trial date.

Also Monday, the state Supreme Court again turned down Cosby's appeal over the legality of the charges. Cosby argued that he had a deal with a former prosecutor that he would never be charged over Constand's complaint.

A new prosecutor reopened the case last year, and filed charges, after new evidence emerged from Constand's civil lawsuit and dozens more accusers came forward with similar complaints about Cosby.

TV series on Michael Jackson's final days in development

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker J.J. Abrams is adapting a new book about Michael Jackson for television with TV and radio host Tavis Smiley, co-author of the book.

Smiley's company said Monday that Warner Bros. Television is on board the project with Smiley and Abrams.

The book, "Before You Judge Me: The Triumph and Tragedy of Michael Jackson's Last Days," will be published Tuesday by Little, Brown and Co.

Written by Smiley and David Ritz, it's described as a novelistic take on the pop star's final months.

Jackson, on the brink of a career comeback, died in June 2009 from an overdose of sedatives.

In this March 5, 2009 file photo, US singer Michael Jackson speaks at a press conference at the London O2 Arena. Filmmaker J.J. Abrams is adapting a new book, "Before You Judge Me: The Triumph and Tragedy of Michael Jackson's Last Days," for TV with its co-author, TV and radio host Tavis Smiley. AP

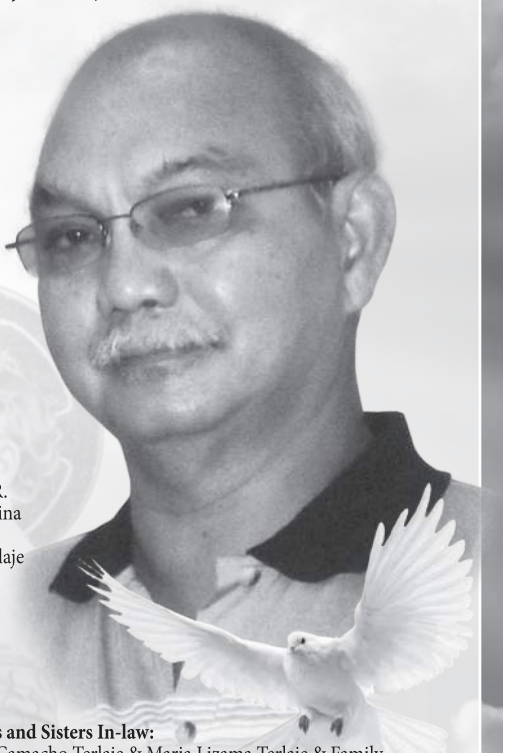
Abrams and Smiley will be executive producers on the TV series. A premier date and network that will air it wasn't announced.

Abrams' credits include "Star Wars" and "Star Trek" movies.

In Celebration of His New Life

†JULIAN QUIDACHAY REYES

June 2, 1949 – June 17, 2016



In his new life he now joins his:

Father: †Jose Blas Reyes
Mother: †Rosa Quidachay Arriola
Wife: †Rita Terlaje Reyes
Son: †David Terlaje
Grandson: †Joseph Julian Terlaje Reyes
Brother: †Vicente Q. Borja
Sister: †Maria E. Omar
In-Laws: †Jose Terlaje
†Regina C. Terlaje
Sister In-Law: †Rosita Terlaje Pangelinan
†Maria Terlaje Palacios

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Mother: Jesusa A. Reyes
Common-law wife: Elenita Solis Avancena
Children:
Jesusa Arriola Laxamana
Soledad Terlaje (Daling) – David/Jose Terlaje
Janice Reyes/Julian Rebuenog Camacho – Jaydene Pearl R. Camacho
Pauline Reyes/Mariano Rios Iglecias – Ryan Casey R. Iglecias/Marita Pauline R. Iglecias/Moira Ailaina R. Iglecias/Hayley Gin R. Iglecias
Joyce Reyes/Diony A. Camacho – †Joseph Julian Terlaje Reyes/Jonathan Julian R. Camacho/ Jennifer Judith R. Camacho/Diony "DJ" R. Camacho
Antonette Reyes/Ray Ervin Inos Manglona – Jaime Anthony R. Manglona/Laura Maria Inos Manglona /Ray Ervin Inos Manglona/Rita Mae R. Manglona

Siblings:
Mary Reyes Mafnas & Family
Doris Reyes and Johnny Nauta & Family
Arlene Reyes and Steven Unpingco & Family
Junie Reyes and Dale Peterson & Family
Janice Reyes and Dennis Lock & Family
Tricia Reyes and Ray Souza & Family

Daniel Evangelista & Family
Jose Q. Arriola & Family
Pedro Q. Arriola & Family
†Vicente Q. Borja & Family (In-law)
†Maria E./Antonio P. Omar & Family
Dolores A./†Ricardo S. Santos & Family
Adelina A./Michael Ibanez & Family
Virginia A./David S. Santos & Family
Rosario Q. Arriola & Family
Frances Q. Arriola & Family

Brothers and Sisters In-law:
Vicente Camacho Terlaje & Maria Lizama Terlaje & Family
Jose Camacho Terlaje & Elizabeth Quitugua Terlaje & Family
†Maria Terlaje Palacios & Antonio Arriola Palacios & Family
Annie Terlaje Pickelsimer & Frank Joseph Pickelsimer & Family
Magdalena Terlaje Hazen & Mark Richard Hazan & Family
Antonia Terlaje Woodworth & Donald Woodworth & Family
Helen Castro Sablan & Jesus Hosono Sablan & Family
†Rosita Terlaje Pangelinan & Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan & Family

Mass is being offered @ Santa Soledad at 6:00 P.M.
Funeral Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Please join us in prayers,
Thank you - Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Children and Family

Riff rift over Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway' returns to court

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Three surviving members of Led Zeppelin reunited in a California courtroom last week at a trial over whether a riff from the band's best-known song, "Stairway to Heaven," was ripped off from the founder of the band Spirit.

The copyright infringement trial resumes Tuesday in Los Angeles federal court.

Here are some things to know about the case:

RIFF RIFT

The estate of the late Randy Wolfe claims a passage from his instrumental "Taurus," was stolen by Led Zeppelin and incorporated in the opening to "Stairway," an instantly recognizable song to generations of music fans.

A riff in the 1968 "Taurus" sounds like the intro to the 1971 rock anthem. Because the copyright only applies to the sheet music filed in the Library of Congress, jurors won't hear the "Taurus" recording, only expert renditions of the sheet music.

A defense expert said the shared similarity is a descending A-minor chord progression, but that's been a musical building block for more than 300 years.

Experts for Wolfe's estate said other similarities include notes of the same duration, use of arpeggios and similar pairs of notes.

WOLFE'S SPIRIT

Wolfe, a guitar prodigy, played as a 15-year-old in Jimi Hendrix's rock group Jimmy James and the Blue Flames. Two band members were named Randy, so Hendrix dubbed him Randy California, a name he used the rest of his life.

Wolfe founded Spirit in Los Angeles in 1967 and the band played its psychedelic jazz-infused rock at "Love-Ins" during the "Summer of Love" and eventually played around the world for loyal fans.

Wolfe wrote "Taurus" for a girlfriend born under that sign of the zodiac.

A surviving band member remembered playing the song at a December 1968 Denver show, where Led Zeppelin made its U.S. debut as the opening act.

Wolfe drowned in 1997 saving his son in Hawaii.

JIMMY PAGE'S GIFT

Page, 72, a masterful guitarist who founded Led Zeppelin when The Yardbirds broke up in 1968, demonstrated a skill for deflecting questions and injecting humor in his testimony.

He said he'd never heard "Taurus" until a son-in-law showed him online comparisons to "Stairway."

"I don't do the internet," Page quipped.

He said the track was "totally alien" to him. However, he later found the album among his collection of 4,329 records and 5,882 CDs, a count he said was "as of yesterday."

Asked if he was a gifted guitarist, Page paused for a long moment and said, "Well, yeah." The courtroom erupted with laughter.

Page carried a guitar into court, but left without playing a note—unless you count a spontaneous air guitar solo during a break with singer Robert Plant.

AP

In this July 13, 1985 file photo, singer Robert Plant, left, and guitarist Jimmy Page of the British rock band Led Zeppelin perform at the Live Aid concert at Philadelphia's J.F.K. Stadium.

Rihanna, Coldplay to headline Made in America festival

Rihanna and Coldplay will headline the Made in America festival on Labor Day weekend in Philadelphia for its fifth season.

Organizers announced on Monday the lineup of the two-day Budweiser Made in America festival, which also includes ColleGrove (2 Chainz & Lil Wayne), Jamie xx, Chance the Rapper, Martin Garrix, Edward Sharpe and The Magnetic Zeros, Grimes, DJ Khaled and more.

The concert, curated by Jay Z, will benefit United Ways in Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey and Berks County, Pennsylvania. Some of the stages will be livestreamed on Jay Z's music streaming service Tidal.

The festival will be held at the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Sept. 3 and 4. ***(AP)***

AP

In this May 22, 2016 file photo, Rihanna arrives on stage to perform "Love On The Brain" at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Led Zeppelin lawyers ask judge to toss 'Stairway' case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Led Zeppelin's lawyers have asked a judge to throw out a case accusing the band's songwriters of ripping off a riff for "Stairway to Heaven."

Attorney Peter Anderson said Monday the estate of Randy Wolfe failed to prove over four days of trial that the copyright to his 1968 song "Taurus" was violated.

Anderson says the estate for the late founder of the band Spirit hasn't shown it owns the copyright to the song "Taurus" and hasn't shown "Stairway" is substantially similar.

The attorney says the plaintiff also failed to show damages or present evidence of revenues from "Stairway."

The motion is expected to be argued when the trial resumes Tuesday in a Los Angeles federal courtroom.

Wolfe's estate claims "Taurus" was used in the intro to "Stairway."

Singer Don McLean, wife, finalize divorce

CAMDEN, Maine (AP)—"American Pie" singer and songwriter Don McLean and his wife have finalized their divorce and agreed to a $10 million settlement.

A spokesman for McLean said Monday that the singer "chose to ignore a premarital agreement" and provide the settlement.

McLean's wife Patrisha, an author and photographer, filed for divorce citing "adultery, cruel and abusive treatment, and irreconcilable differences" in legal papers.

The couple had been married for about 30 years. They have two adult children.

McLean, who lives in the coastal town of Camden, was arrested in January on charges including domestic violence assault. He has pleaded not guilty.

Woman can't end office affair until she regains self-worth

DEAR ABBY: I met "Edward" at work six years ago. We were instantly attracted to each other and soon began an affair. We are both married to others.

I never thought I could stray outside my marriage, even though my marriage has been very lonely. I love Edward more than I ever thought possible, but even though he has strong feelings for me, he says he will never file for divorce from his wife.

We are still involved, but I am heartbroken that he doesn't want me enough to leave her. He has never said that he loves his wife, just that he doesn't believe in divorce. I have never felt such a strong connection with anyone, ever!

My head tells me to forget him, but my heart won't allow it. I am so sad and depressed that I can't function some days. How can I move past this man and regain my self-worth?

NEED TO MOVE FORWARD

DEAR NEED TO MOVE FORWARD: You wrote that your lover has never said he loves his wife. You think he has strong feelings for you, but has he ever defined them as "love"? Has it occurred to you that what he "loves" may be his financial net worth, and THAT is the reason he will never divorce his wife?

I don't blame you for feeling sad and depressed. If I were you, I'd feel sad and depressed too. You have violated your own principles and are in a relationship that, much as you might wish it, will never bring you the validation you're looking for. When you start liking yourself again, you may find that you need him less. And that is when you'll end this affair and reconnect with your sense of self-worth, because as it stands, you cannot have both.

DEAR ABBY: Our daughter came home for spring break from college with troubling news. She has been sexually harassed by a very large and aggressive lesbian in her dorm this year. When the girl first came on to her, my daughter told her NO. Later, on two separate occasions, the girl pushed her to the floor and groped her in the lobby of the dorm.

My daughter was afraid to fight the girl because she's small. She was also afraid to report it—I guess she thought it was an isolated incident.

Recently she found out that the girl has done the same thing to several other girls. They all went to the Title IX people on campus to file a complaint, but were told they won't get any answers until late summer, which is after school is out.

Is this kind of harassment common in our schools? Should she take it to the campus police or city police? Our daughter really likes her college, but she shouldn't have to put up with this.

TROUBLING NEWS

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR TROUBLING NEWS: I agree that your daughter —and the other girls—should not have to put up with being assaulted. I wish you had revealed a little bit more about what happened when the assaults were reported. Was the aggressor counseled? Warned to stay away from the girls she had harassed? Removed from the dorm?

If nothing was done, before informing the police, I'm advising you to discuss this with a lawyer because a school that would ignore what happened may be liable.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby,

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE HAD TROUBLE CHOOSING A NEW HOBBY.
FIRST I WANTED TO COLLECT BUGS.
THEN I WANTED TO COLLECT STAMPS.
WHAT DID YOU DECIDE ON?
STAMPED BUGS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

A TV THAT RISES FROM THE FLOOR?
A HOT TUB?
A TRELLIS?
YEP.
DONE.
OF COURSE.
THESE ARE ALL GOOD IDEAS. BUT THIS NEEDS TO BE THE AWESOMEST DECK EVER.
WHAT IF THE TRELLIS HAD A TRELLIS?
THAT. THAT RIGHT THERE IS WHY WE HAD YOU, SON.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK OF THESE?
Yep - THEY FIT JUST LIKE SKINNY JEANS SHOULD.
THEY'RE "RELAXED FIT."
THIS DAY IN THE FASHION INDUSTRY WILL GO DOWN IN INFAMY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 J. Edgar's org.
4 eBay offer
7 "Misery" star James
8 Craze
10 Circular
11 Straighten, as a hose
13 Speaking frankly
16 Tel. number add-on
17 Foretell
18 Scratch the surface?
19 Unique
20 Proscribes
21 Car sticker
23 Hot dog side dish
25 Quitter's word
26 Vow
27 Upscale auto
28 Third rock from the sun
30 "Caught ya!"
33 Young person
36 African desert
37 Ringlets
38 Ritzy spreads
39 Perched on
40 Billy — Williams
41 Cariou of Broadway

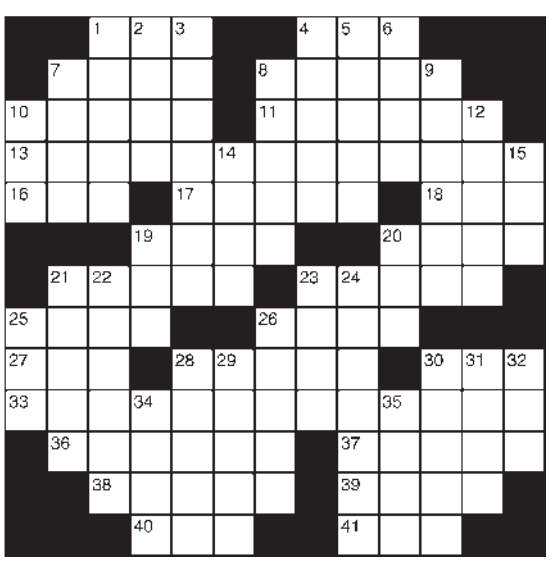
DOWN

1 Defect
2 Teller's place
3 Kokomo's home
4 African language group
5 Rack up, as debt
6 Couturier Christian
7 Cajole
8 Hot and humid
9 Quarterback Troy
10 Hwy.
12 Inclines
14 Void partner
15 Decade parts (Abbr.)
19 Halloween mo.
20 "Humbug!"
21 Muffles
22 Swaddle
23 Tub session
24 Morally right
25 "Elementary" airer
26 Killer whales
28 Maternally related
29 Concur
30 "Rubber Capital"
31 Lend a hand
32 Reply (Abbr.)
34 "If — a Hammer"
35 Just adorable

Solution time: 24 mins.

G	O	S	H			H	E	P		V	O	T	E
A	S	E	A			O	A	R		O	N	O	R
S	H	A	W			P	R	O	T	O	C	O	L
P	A	R	A	S	O	L			A	D	E	L	E
				I	N	N			B	R	O		
S	N	A	I	L			G	A	S	O	H	O	L
U	P	S				B	E	D				O	U	I
B	A	I	S	T	O	L			B	L	I	T	Z
			M	A	X			M	I	A			
C	N	E	U	P			M	E	N	T	H	O	L
F	O	L	D	E	R	O	L			I	A	G	O
H	O	G			A	L	B			S	L	E	W
S	A	N	E			P	E	A		H	O	E	S

Yesterday's answer 6-22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carson Daly, 43; Cyndi Lauper, 63; Meryl Streep, 67; Todd Rundgren, 68.

Happy Birthday: Call the shots instead of taking orders from someone else. Diversify and simplify your life. Get your affairs in order and take charge of the way you live and how you move forward. Unique changes to the way you live will give you a burst of energy that will help you bring your ideas and plans to life. Your numbers are 5, 11, 23, 27, 36, 38, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A business or personal problem will surface if you have neglected your responsibilities or reneged on a promise. A serious look at your current position and financial state will prompt you to make a subtle but necessary change. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Outsource a business venture that has fortuitous potential. Attending a trade show or convention will lead to a proposition that sparks your interest. A partnership will give you the momentum to achieve the success you are looking for. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Dream on, but don't forget that taking action will be necessary to get actual results. Stop thinking and start doing. Find out what's required to get things underway. Take care of any red-tape issues as soon as possible. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The power of persuasion will do wonders when you need help from others. Offering an incentive will help you double your returns. A chance to make money or improve your assets looks promising. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get involved in a cause or lend a helping hand to someone you care about, and you will feel good and realize how lucky you are. Your ability to bring people together and make things happen will lead to an interesting offer. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put needed changes in place. Don't let someone beat you at your own game. Make plans that will position you well for your future endeavors. Don't let a lack of confidence turn into a stumbling block. Romance looks promising. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Offer what you can, but defend your position when you know you are right. Don't let physical setbacks slow you down. Use your intelligence and stamina to carry out new plans. You can make a difference. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay on top of situations as they arise. Your insight, compassion and unique way of handling controversy will help you overcome any emotional manipulation you face. Romance and commitment will go hand in hand. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): An adventure will add excitement to your life. You will gain experience and test your discipline, but the challenge will be worth your effort in the end. Common sense will be your guiding light. Take what belongs to you and don't look back. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be a leader, instigator and mediator. Waiting for someone to do something is a waste of time when you can control the situation and get things done your way. A celebration with someone you love will sweeten your victory. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A secretive approach to your plans will help you avoid interference. Keep your emotions hidden until you know where everyone stands. It's better to be safe than sorry when dealing with sensitive issues. Promises are likely to be broken. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An offer will require immediate action. Size things up quickly and make your position known. A positive response from someone you love will make it easier for you to assess the decisions you need to make. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ahead of your time and in control. You are steadfast and bold.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			9	4	7			
		9			2			
	6			3				
4				1				
8				6			3	7
7					8	1		4
	7							2
		8					5	
			4	8	5	3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	5	3	1	6	9	8	2	7
6	2	8	4	5	7	3	1	9
7	9	1	3	8	2	5	6	4
1	3	2	9	7	5	4	8	6
5	6	4	2	1	8	7	9	3
8	7	9	6	3	4	2	5	1
9	4	6	5	2	3	1	7	8
2	1	7	8	4	6	9	3	5
3	8	5	7	9	1	6	4	2

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

REMEMBERING 'MARRIED WITH CHILDREN' Solution: 7 letters

S	Y	A	D	N	A	M	A	D	N	A	R	I	M	E
K	E	L	L	Y	R	O	N	L	E	A	V	I	T	T
C	L	D	D	R	E	B	M	A	L	E	X	A	A	K
U	N	L	A	Z	Y	A	W	U	R	S	G	O	A	A
B	I	A	R	O	R	O	K	A	N	E	J	S	F	T
E	G	G	C	C	H	E	C	O	L	O	I	A	E	E
L	C	A	Y	S	V	R	S	P	B	H	U	E	L	Y
L	M	S	B	E	U	R	P	S	K	S	W	U	N	C
L	D	E	T	Z	E	A	N	I	T	S	I	R	H	C
I	E	S	B	F	B	E	D	I	V	A	D	I	E	D
E	T	G	F	E	T	S	N	E	H	O	C	N	Y	M
N	Y	E	A	W	B	O	N	O	R	A	A	E	O	A
O	J	R	O	U	I	L	A	U	G	H	F	M	M	R
D	S	R	D	A	D	L	N	O	S	I	R	R	A	G
E	K	Y	G	G	E	P	D	L	L	A	H	D	D	E

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Aaron, Amanda, Amber, Applegate, Bearse, Bebe, Bell, Buck, Bud, Chicago, Christina, Cohen, Dad, D'Arcy, David, Edd Hall, Ed O'Neill, Faustino, Fox, Garrison, Gerry, Isak, Jefferson, Jobs, Katey, Kelly, Kids, Laugh, Lazy, Life, Luke, Marcy, Marge, Miranda, Mom, Moye, Network, Peggy, Rhoades, Ron Leavitt, Sagal, Shane, Shoes, Show, Steve, Sweet, Ted McGinley, Veracruz, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Earthquake

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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USED DIESEL GENERATOR

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Super Sound Proof Type (Sound level 55dB)
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$23,000

Please call 287-3117/788-0509

JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – DIESEL TANK TRUCK DRIVER
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Knowledge to operate a Commercial Motor Vehicle that transporting hazardous material (petroleum diesel).
- Knowledge to load/unload petroleum diesel at filling rack
- Knowledge to read tank truck gauges or meters
- Must know to transport hazardous materials (petroleum diesel) and must know how to respond in case of spillage and emergency.
- Safety training is required to Hazardous material transportation
- Familiarization in hazard class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Masterials/Dangerous Goods)
- Must be a certified Hazmat Tank truck driver
- Must have not less than 5 years experience as a Hazmat Tank Truck Driver
- Commercial Driver's Health Certificate is required.
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Bachelors degree in Accounting with 5 years work related experience in financial transactions.
- Familiar with Petroleum business activities
- Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsibility, and able to manage deadlines
- Knowledge in Peachtree software, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word operations

Mail complete application or resume to:
D & W Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950.
Deadline: June 23, 2016

Kanoa Resort Saipan

(1) GUEST SERVICES AGENT
Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of a few months to one year of training involving both on-the-job experience and informal training with experienced workers in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Japanese speaking preferred. Must be able to work variable schedule including nights, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than June 24, 2016. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

EMPLOYMENT

2 Accountant/Bokkeeper, $6.05/hr. Mail resume to Burger & Comer PC at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950.

1-Accountant Bookkeeper/Computer Operator - $6.05 w/ 6 yrs exp & knowledge in Acctng & Taxes. Japanese Foods import/export docs related. Mail resume to SPE Saipan Box 502696 Saipan MP 96950.

IM CALVO, LLC
P.O. Box 502795 Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Commercial Cleaner – With atleast 5 years work experience in cleaning apartment/building, dust & mop, polish floor & furniture. Must be honest, trustworthy and able to work flexible hours.

Email resume to edwardcalvo@gmail.com. No phone calls please. US applicants are encouraged to apply.

Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 502478, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670)288-0566 · Fax: (670)234-2618

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **Biomedical Tech./Electrical, Maintenance Specialist for Health Facility:** The position requires working in the acute health care environment to maintain and repair wide variety of systems including but not limited to steam plant, oxygen enrichment, reverse osmosis, back-up emergency electrical power, electrical switch gear, medical vacuum, medical compressed air, air condition and ventilation, life safety systems and general biomedical/dental equipments.
- **Laborer, Landscaping and Groundskeeping:** Majority (80%) of time is spent maintaining property around company office, which is comprised of 4000 sq.mt (groundskeeping). Also does basic plumbing and repairs around office, and daily office cleaning to include work space located at clients and warehouse. Other (20%) is spent on general duties such as delivery/pickup of supplies and performs duties as mail runner.

EMPLOYMENT

Beauty Care Instructor. $6.00-$7.00/hr. w/2yrs. teaching exp. Send resume to paolo.tabuada@yahoo.com.

1 Taekwondo Instructor, $10.25/hr. Mail resume to Blue Dragon Martial Arts Corporation at P.O. Box 506310 Saipan, MP 96950.

1 Maintenance and Repair Worker, $6.05/hr. Mail resume to Elliot System, LLC. at P.O. Box 5568 Saipan, MP 96950

4 Landscaper and Grounds Keeping Worker, (2) Waiters and Waitress, $6.05/hr. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance (Saipan), Inc. at P.O. Box 504053 Saipan, MP 96950.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cheer Dragon Leasing Corporation has open vacancy for skydiving operation on following positions:

General Manager / Chief Instructor:
An Applicant must have skydiving experience of no less as 8000 tandem jumps, plus:
- 5 years experience in running skydiving operation;
- familiar with tandem operations;
- experience in skydiving operation marketing;
- to hold the USPA D-License or higher or its foreign equivalent;
- to hold the USPA Tandem Instructor rating, its foreign equivalent or the Manufacturer Type Endorsement;
- to hold US FAA III Class Medical;
- experience in aerial photography;
- skills in foreign language is plus.

Inquiries and CV forward via e-mail to skydivemarianas@rocketmail.com

Blue Lagoon Realty Inc.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

- **2 Gen. Maintenance & Repair Workers**
- **2 Carpenters**
- **1 Accountant**
- **1 Plumber**
- **2 Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners**

Please email resume to:
info@mangoresort.com
Contact Elly at (670) 288-6904
for more information

Vacant Land for Sale or Lease

- **Kagman** - beautiful ocean views
- **San Roque** - within walking distance to the beach
- **Dan Dan** - two properties (ocean view and frontage road with high vehicle traffic)
- **Koblerville** - house and land

To make an appointment to view these properties, please contact us at 989-1230 or 234-6025

JOB VANCANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

1 – LPG EQUIPMENT/TANKER MECHANIC
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Applicant must have a minimum of 5 preferably more years experience specifically dealing with LPG with demonstrable experience in the administering of LPG equipment installations and their subsequent maintenance.
- Repairing and maintaining of LPG Tanker Trucks, LPG pumps and metering system.
- must have experience with dangerous good regulations and familiarization in hazard class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials and Dagerous Goods).
- must have the knowledge in safety practices and hazmat security procedures.
- Safety training to Hazardous Material transportation is required.
- Commercial Driver's Health Certificate is required.
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written especially when it come to inventory and reporting.
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – LPG TANK TRUCK DRIVER
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Must have 5 years experience as LPG Tank Truck Driver
- Knowledge to load and/or unload LPG at filling rack and read gauges or meters.
- Must know to operate LPG Truck (MC-331) in accordance to established safety procedures.
- Must be a trained Hazmat Tank truck driver
- Safety training certificate is required in Hazardous Material Transportation and have knowledge in Hazard Class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials/Dangerous Goods).
- Commercial Drivers Health Certificate is required
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – LPG MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Must have 5 years experience in the relevant field
- Ability to perform LPG equipment installation.
- Monitor the loading and/or unloading of LPG from isotainer to LPG storage tank with safety procedures.
- Training certificate is required in Hazardous Material Transportation
- Familiarization in Hazard Class 1075 & 49 CFR (Hazard Materials/Dangerous Goods)
- Commercial Drivers Health Certificate is required
- Must possess a current and valid CNMI driver's license and not be disqualified to drive a motor vehicle.

1 – BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
Salary: Minimum/Negotiable, Full time
- Applicant must have 5 years work related experience in accounting.
- Must have knowledge in LPG Petroleum business activities.
- Must have a good communication and multitasking skills, organizational, self-motivation, responsibility, and able to manage deadlines.
- Must have knowledge in Peachtree software, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Word operations.

Mail your complete application or resume' to:
Wushin Corporation, PO Box 500440, Saipan, MP 96950
Closing date: June 23, 2016

Elevator Technician
Full time. 5 years
servicing experience
Salary with benefits commensurate
with experience.

Send resume to Administrator:
P.O. Box 503327 Saipan, MP 96950
Suite 309
Call Alan at **285-5499**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Gen Maintenance - with 2-5 years experience, preferably have a background of troubleshooting power generator, air conditioner and some equipment used in maintaining the building and equipment used for business. Have a background of carpentry.

Please send your resume at hr.islandapparel@gmail.com
NO Phone calls please.
Island Apparel
P.O. Box 502912, Saipan MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
CMI General Construction
1 Comptroller/Accountant
Email resume to cmi.gencon@gmail.com

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive Whispering Palms, Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM] Small Claims
Plaintiff,] No. 14-0458
vs.]
FLORIDA A. GRIZZARD,] AMENDED
Defendant.] SUMMONS
]

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: FLORIDA A. GRIZZARD

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT, a copy of which can be obtained at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres in Chalan Kiya, within twenty (20) days after service of this **AMENDED SUMMONS** upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this **AMENDED SUMMONS**, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

The Pre-Judgment hearing in the above captioned matter is scheduled to be heard on **July 7, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.**

SO ORDERED on this 9th day of June 2016.
/s/Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. in the CPA Conference Room located on the second floor of the Captain George Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (May 13, 2016)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

III. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Supplemental Request(s)
2. Contracts/Change Order
3. Airport matter(s)

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI June 21, 2016
Chairman, Board of Directors

Job Vacancy Announcement
MECHANICAL ENGINEER (1)
- 4-5 years experience in Real Estate
- Should be Engineering graduate

Please send resume to:
Equitable Realty & Consulting Services
Fax. No.: 234-5104

QCM, LLC.
is seeking for the following:

(6) Construction Workers
U.S. only with 5 years experience in multiple trades. Must have own reliable transportation, no housing, no insurance. Minimum wage. Job starts: Dec. 2, 2016

Send references, police clearance and resume to QCM, LLC. at PMB 3602 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950.
Closes on July 7, 2016

Pacific Biomedical Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 502478 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670)288-0566 • Fax: (670)234-2618

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Equipment Repairer
This position requires working in the acute health care environment assisting in maintain and repairing wide variety of systems including but not limited to oxygen enrichment systems, reverse osmosis, medical vacuum, medical compressed air, life safety systems and general biomedical/dental equipments. Individual will work under close supervision of Biomedical Service Engineer and must possess basic knowledge of Electronics or Electricity.

Job Vacancy Announcement
ACCOUNTANT (1)
- 6-8 years of experience in the preparation & analysis of Financial Statements
- Should be BSBA-Accounting graduate
- 6-8 years experience in Financing & Insurance

Please send resume to
Friendly Finance Co., Inc.
Fax No.: 234-5104

Warehouse for RENT
REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Accountant

- **Qualifications:** Must be a College Degree with at least five year experience required. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree Accounting software and be able to work flexible hours with valid Driver License. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience starting at $6.05.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Pacific Development, Inc. in Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Garapan no later than June 27, 2016

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SAMCORP IMPORTS

Sales associates: Looking for a sales person, for both on and off premises sales. Must have a valid driver license, and be able to drive both manual and automatic. Background on distribution sales and marketing is a plus. Knowledge in wine, liquor and tobacco is a plus. Must be able to use a computer, with knowledge in work/excel/ QuickBooks. Must be able to lift heavy boxes for delivery and stocking. Must be able to communicate in a polite and understandable voice.

All jobs pay will be matched with experience,
local and US citizen preferred. Please submit your resume
to samcorpimports@yahoo.com.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opening Date: June 15, 2016
Closing Date: July 6, 2016

Position: **Receptionist**
Salary: **PL 20/08 – $20,234.110 to PL 20/12 ($24,584.230 P/A)**
(Starting salary will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.)

Job Location: **NMHC Central Office, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950**

Detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, together with NMHC's employment application form, during regular working hours at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

Applicants are requested to submit their original application and supporting documents to the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 6, 2016, **OR MAILED AND POSTMARKED** no later than July 6, 2016, to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn C. Seman, Office Manager at (670) 234-9447/7689 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

BUBBA GUMP SHRIMP CO RESTAURANT & MARKET
is now accepting applications for experienced:
- **Kitchen Helpers**
- **Servers**
- **Cooks**

Apply in person at the Triple J Corporate Office, Ground Floor, Silver Hotel, Brigida Street, Chalan Kanoa, Monday through Friday, 9am to 12noon.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.
corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com
Triple J is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CHAMPION FINANCE

Champion Finance is looking for Dynamic individuals who would like to be a part of our team for the following post.

Loan / Financial Manager

Duties:
- Review loan agreements to ensure that they are complete and accurate according to policy.
- Approve, reject, or coordinate the approval or rejection of lines of credit or commercial, real estate, or personal loans.
- Analyze applicants' financial status, credit, and property evaluations to determine feasibility of granting loans.
- Review collection reports to determine the status of collections and the amounts of outstanding balances.
- Set credit policies, credit lines, procedures and standards in conjunction with senior managers.
- Oversee the flow of cash or financial instruments.
- Prepare financial or regulatory reports required by laws, regulations, or boardsof directors.
- Develop or analyze information to assess the current or future financial status of firms.
- Evaluate financial reporting systems, accounting or collection procedures, or investment activities and make recommendations for changes to procedures, operating systems, budgets, or other financial control functions.
- Establish procedures for custody or control of assets, records, loan collateral, or securities to ensure safekeeping.
- Plan, direct, and coordinate risk and insurance programs of establishments to control risks and losses.

Education/Experience:
- Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Business Administration or Accounting and 2 years' experience in Finance will be a plus. Salary will be discussed upon interview.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their resumes or pick up an employment application at
Champion Finance, 3rd floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 316-B
or email championfinancecnmi@gmail.com

Off the plane but still sky-high, LeBron brings title home

CLEVELAND (AP)—LeBron James stepped off the plane and into a blizzard of red-and-gold confetti before hoisting the Larry O'Brien trophy. It gleamed in the bright summer sun, a symbol of hope and history.

As promised, James brought home a championship, the one on hold the past 52 years.

"This is for you, Cleveland," James shouted into a microphone.

The superstar, born and raised in nearby Akron, powered the Cavaliers to a never-seen-before comeback in the NBA Finals, bringing them back from a 3-1 deficit to stun the Golden State Warriors.

On Monday, more than 10,000 fans gathered at Hopkins International Airport welcomed James and his teammates, who made a pit stop in Las Vegas for late-night partying before completing this unlikeliest June journey.

The Cavs not only defied the odds to make history, but they ended Cleveland's pro sports title drought stretching to 1964, when the Browns won an NFL title.

It's been a surreal ride for Clevelanders and shortly after showing fans the trophy from afar, James, the four-time league MVP, paraded it around the perimeter of the parking lot so fans behind the chain-linked fences could see they weren't dreaming.

"I kept waking up during the night and saying, 'Did we really win'?" said Diana Beetler of Oberlin, Ohio. "I couldn't believe it. I've never had a championship since I was born. We've been waiting years and years for this."

She watched Sunday night's game at home with family.

"I cried," said Beetler's 18-year-old daughter, Zoe. "Everybody cried."

It seems the entire city choked up after James capped his MVP series with a sensational Game 7, a triple-double performance that will long be remembered for his chase-down block of Warriors forward Andre Iguodala in the final minutes - a rejection that seemed to erase so many bad memories in Cleveland.

James' emotional reaction following the game seemed to strike a chord with everyone. He broke down crying several times, overwhelmed by the magnitude of what he had accomplished and what he knew it meant to Northeast Ohio.

"It was unbelievable," said Indians manager Terry Francona, who helped the Boston Red Sox end their 86-year World Series dryspell.

"I almost enjoy that part of it as much. Watching the genuine emotion come out. So often, when guys are talking, it's saying the right thing. I get it. I'm supposed to do it, too. It's just part of the job. But to see the genuine emotion come out was pretty cool."

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James raises the NBA Championship trophy after arriving at the airport, Monday, June 20, 2016, in Cleveland.

Even Golden State's Draymond Green, who nearly shot the Warriors to a win in Game 7, was happy for Cleveland.

"That's huge for that city," he said. "They wanted it bad, and they got it. It will be huge."

Many of the fans who arrived at the vast I-X Center adjacent to the airport on Monday morning were going on little or no sleep following Sunday night's riveting victory. The crowd was entertained by music and dancers before cheering replays of the final, frenetic minutes of Game 7 as if they were living them for the first time.

Cleveland's furry mascot, Moondog, body surfed on the massive crowd, which continued to grow up until the moment the Cavs' 757 jet pulled in about 12:40 p.m., welcomed under two criss-crossing water cannons and deafening cheers.

The Finals

Cavs coach Tyronn Lue, who took over the team in late January, and several other players paused at the top gangway to film and absorb the wild scene below as fans let loose and sang Queen's "We Are The Champions."

Following star guard Kyrie Irving and a shirtless J.R. Smith, James, wearing a blue T-shirt with "Ultimate Warrior" written on the front, was the last player to come through the plane's door. When he lifted the trophy, Cleveland erupted as it did a few hours earlier after the 93-89 victory.

Later, James was greeted by hundreds of fans outside his home in Akron. Their passion and patience was rewarded when James emerged from his luxury van and spoke to the group.

"That championship wasn't just for us. That championship last night was for everybody in Northeast Ohio," James said, adding he hadn't slept and needed a long nap. "I always want you guys to remember that I'm just a kid from Akron, Ohio."

The party in Cleveland will continue all week—and maybe beyond—with a downtown parade planned for Wednesday, a celebration few thought they would ever witness.

Game 7 draws top rating since Jordan's last title

NEW YORK (A)—Game 7 between the Cavaliers and Warriors drew the highest television rating for the NBA Finals since Michael Jordan's last championship.

Cleveland's tense 93-89 win Sunday night to capture the city's first title in more than a half-century averaged a 15.7 rating and nearly 30.8 million viewers on ABC. Both numbers are the best since Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals, when Jordan's Bulls clinched their sixth ring, ESPN said Monday. That game set an NBA record with a 22.3 rating on NBC.

An additional 598,000 viewers streamed Sunday's game on WatchESPN.

A string of lopsided scores through the first six games had lowered ratings from last year's matchup between the same teams. But Game 7 was tight throughout, with LeBron James trying to lead the Cavs to a historic triumph.

Game 6 of the 2015 finals, when Golden State clinched its title, averaged almost 23.3 million viewers.

Viewership peaked Sunday with more than 44.5 million viewers and a 22.5 rating as Cleveland wrapped up the championship.

Ratings represent the percentage of U.S. homes with televisions tuned to a program. The game earned a 46.3 rating in the Cleveland area.

Disappointed Warriors vow to get back to NBA Finals stage

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Draymond Green wants to maintain the momentum from a special season that fell short by competing in the Rio Olympics. Klay Thompson plans to take his mind off basketball and missed chances entirely and go watch brother Trayce play baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Stephen Curry's toddler daughter, Riley, helped the crestfallen MVP begin to put things in perspective by telling him "It's OK" to lose.

Not one of Golden State's All-Star trio plans to watch Game 7 of the NBA Finals again any time soon, if ever.

"No need," Green said.

While Green is eager to immediately move forward, Thompson was despondent a day later, still at a loss for words to describe how the Warriors became the first team in NBA history to squander a 3-1 Finals lead and miss out on a second straight championship that was there to be had.

"We'll be there again. You've just got to realize how bad it hurts and why winning is so good," Thompson said. "It was very disappointing just because we know how good we are. We feel like we're still the best team in the world. We let that slide. It hurts right now. I can't tell you when the disappointment's going to fade, but it will."

The best team in regular-season history with 73 wins, Golden State succumbed to a determined LeBron James and the Cavaliers 93-89 on Sunday night as Cleveland capped a remarkable comeback for the franchise's first title—doing so with three straight victories, two at typically intimidating Oracle Arena -- and to end the city's 52-year championship drought.

"To sit and dwell on it, that's not going to do anything for me," said Green, who sat out the Game 5 defeat while suspended for flagrant fouls. "I'm not going to sit and throw a pity party for myself or my teammates or anybody else. We were a minute away from winning a championship. We had a 3-1 lead, we had all the opportunities in the world we needed. Got to take your hat off to them. They fought, they battled and they took the series. It's nothing to sit around and cry about. It's something that you learn from."

A downtrodden locker room was a strange sight for this "Strength In Numbers" group, which relied on its deep bench right along with the shooting touch of Splash Brothers Curry and Thompson and Green's emotions and physical play on both ends of the court.

"We've had so many moments of joy together, and it was like, `Wow, we're actually having a moment of sorrow as a team," Coach of the Year Steve Kerr said. "It's a great reminder that, first of all, it's not easy to win a championship. But, as I said, it's life. Things happen. You move on."

Curry, for one, can't do that just yet. He will spend the summer thinking about what went wrong, what more he could have done to change the outcome.

"You look at the history of the league, it would have been really nice to be in that group of teams that repeated," Curry said, "creating that year-to-year special accomplishment. ... The teams that have fallen short found a way to come back stronger."

While Green plans for the Olympics, Thompson is "exhausted" and said he had planned to compete in Rio but is no longer certain. Curry already recently opted out of playing for the United States, needing to rest his weary body.

Thinking about this series will be "probably the theme of the summer." Golden State lost as many games in the postseason—nine— as it did in a 73-win regular season while breaking the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls' record for victories and he will appreciate "a special journey, a special ride" in spite of the finish.

Kershaw dominates again as Dodgers beat Nats

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw yielded six hits over seven dominant innings to earn his ninth victory in 10 starts, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Washington Nationals 4-1 Monday night for their fourth straight victory.

Washington scratched Stephen Strasburg about 80 minutes before game time due to an upper back strain, depriving Chavez Ravine of a tantalizing pitchers' duel with Kershaw (11-1).

The Dodgers' ace still added eight strikeouts to his major league-leading 141, fanning Bryce Harper three times. Kershaw didn't walk a batter and got through a tricky seventh inning to remain unbeaten since May 1.

Kenley Jansen became the Dodgers' career saves leader in the ninth. He surpassed Eric Gagne with his 162nd save, including 20 this season in 23 chances.

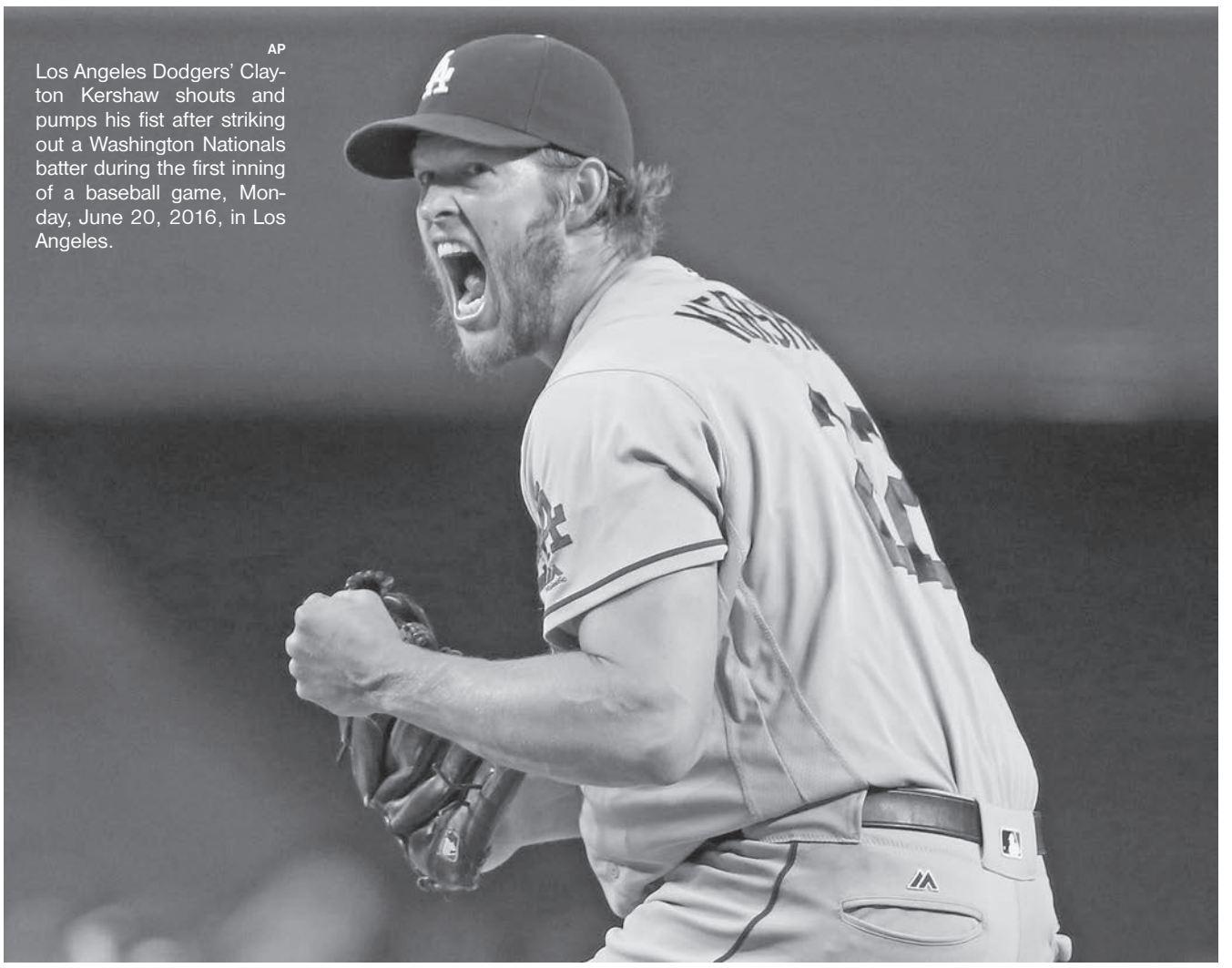
Anthony Rendon drove in the Nationals' run in the seventh.

Late replacement Yusmeiro Petit (2-1) pitched six solid innings of five-hit ball in his first start for the NL East-leading Nationals, who have lost three straight.

Justin Turner homered and drove in two runs, and Joc Pederson also homered in the Dodgers' sixth win in seven games.

The Dodgers went a season-high six games over .500 (39-33) on a scorching day in LA with another stellar start from Kershaw, who threw his first pitch in 96-degree heat.

Turner put the Dodgers ahead in the first with his 10th homer, including five in his last eight games.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw shouts and pumps his fist after striking out a Washington Nationals batter during the first inning of a baseball game, Monday, June 20, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Pirates 1, Giants 0

In Pittsburgh, Jeff Locke followed consecutive horrible starts with 6 2/3 scoreless innings, Erik Kratz hit his first home run since 2014 and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat San Francisco, ending the Giants' eight-game winning streak.

Locke (6-5) allowed five hits, no walks and struck out three, helping the Pirates to their second win in 12 games. He had allowed 18 runs and 20 hits over 8 2/3 innings during his previous two outings.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Brandon Moss and Jhonny Peralta homered against John Lackey, and St. Louis stopped a five-game slide by holding off Chicago.

Aledmys Diaz added an RBI single and Jaime Garcia (5-6) pitched into the seventh inning as the Cardinals got back on track following their first winless homestand of at least two series since 1983. It was their first trip to Wrigley Field since they were eliminated by the Cubs in their NL Division Series last year.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 1, 10 innings

In Boston, Jose Abreu doubled home two runs off Boston closer Craig Kimbrel with two outs in the 10th inning after Chicago escaped a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the ninth.

Chicago snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the eighth time in 26 games. Boston has lost five of eight.

Zach Duke (2-0) wriggled out of the ninth to get the win. David Robertson worked the 10th for his 17th save.

Indians 7, Rays 4

In Cleveland, Francisco Lindor and Juan Uribe homered in the eighth inning to lift Cleveland over Tampa Bay.

Lindor hit the first pitch from Erasmo Ramirez (7-5) to break a 4-all tie. Uribe homered in his third straight game, a two-run shot off Ramirez.

Tigers 8, Mariners 7, 12 innings

In Detroit, Justin Upton hit a line drive over the left-field wall in the 12th inning for his second home run of the game, lifting Detroit past Seattle.

Upton connected on a 2-2 pitch from Vidal Nuno (0-1) leading off the 12th.

Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer for the Tigers in the first that cleared a brick wall in right-center, bounced off a concrete concourse and out of Comerica Park.

Diamondbacks 3, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Shelby Miller threw 6 2/3 sharp innings, Jake Lamb hit a two-run homer and Arizona beat reeling Philadelphia to complete a four-game sweep.

Miller (2-6) allowed one run and five hits, striking out five in his first start since May 24. He had been on the disabled list with a sprained right index finger.

Rockies 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, Mark Reynolds hit two homers to help power Colorado past Miami in a record-setting home run contest.

Trevor Story, Nick Hundley and Charlie Blackmon also went deep for the Rockies, who salvaged the finale of a four-game series.

Rangers 4, Orioles 3

In Arlington, Shin-Soo Choo hit a go-ahead, two-run single, Ian Desmond homered halfway up the hill in center field and streaking Texas beat Baltimore in a makeup game matching the American League's top two teams.

Texas extended its season-best winning streak to seven games, the last four being one-run decisions. Since the makeup of an April 17 rainout counted as a series, the AL West leaders stretched their club record to 10 consecutive series wins -- the longest in the AL since Tampa Bay's 10 in a row three years ago.

Astros 10, Angels 7

In Houston, Doug Fister threw seven solid innings and Jose Altuve, Jason Castro and Carlos Correa homered to help Houston beat Los Angeles.

Fister (8-3) gave up two runs and four hits in earning his seventh straight win. The Astros have won Fister's last 10 starts.

Pat Neshek got two outs for his first save.

Robberies prompt calls for Olympic-level security in Rio now

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia's Olympic team leader is urging Brazilian authorities to implement Olympic-scale security now in Rio de Janeiro "before an athlete gets hurt."

Two members of the Australian Paralympic sailing squad were robbed at gunpoint in Rio on the weekend, emphasizing fears of crime against foreign athletes ahead of the Aug. 5-21 Summer Games.

An estimated 85,000 police and soldiers will be patrolling the streets during the Olympics and Paralympics, but violent crime remains a fact of life in Rio.

"Maybe the organizing committee should mobilize their games-time defense force early," Kitty Chiller, Australia's Olympic team leader, said Tuesday. "Do it now."

A statement from Australian Sailing said Paralympic sailor Liesl Tesch and team official Sarah Ross were confronted by two men while riding their bicycles in Rio park on Sunday. One of the men was carrying a pistol and the women were robbed of their bicycles.

Last month, Spain's Olympic gold-medal winning sailor Fernando Echavarri and two companions said they were held up at gunpoint by five young men in Rio.

Tesch raced at the Paralympic sailing venue Monday, and was quoted as saying of the robbery: "We are both shaken, but physically we're both OK."

Brazilian police are investigating.

Security is near the top of a long list of problems plaguing Rio ahead of the Olympics, including the Zika virus, water pollution, slow ticket sales and budget cuts.

"We have briefed our athletes leading into the Games. Basically we are saying that if you are confronted by criminals, comply, handover your belongings and don't argue," Chiller said. "That is exactly what the two Paralympians did on Sunday."

She said the Paralympic sailors were confronted by men at 7:30 a.m. near their accommodation.

"There were people around but no-one came to their assistance. This is a major concern and the only answer is for the authorities to put extra police and security on the ground now," Chiller said. "We are taking over 400 young athletes to the games, we need to ensure they are protected at all costs."

Australian team leaders have already barred athletes and officials from visiting shantytowns and slums in Rio.

"The local mayor was very upset with me when we announced that the favelas were off limits to members of our team," Chiller said. "This was not a slur on his city, which is a beautiful and vibrant city. It is a simple security precaution."

Doping summit

Meanwhile, with a ban on Russia's track and field athletes already in place, Olympic leaders are looking at further anti-doping measures ahead of the Rio de Janeiro Games.

The status of other sports in Russia, as well as other countries and sports with poor doping records, could come under scrutiny at an Olympic summit in Lausanne on Tuesday.

The sports leaders are also expected to discuss guidelines for the process, approved by the IAAF, which would allow a small group of Russian athletes who live and undergo rigorous drug-testing outside the country to apply to compete as "neutral" athletes in Rio without any Russian flag.

The meeting comes four days after track and field's world governing body upheld the ban, first imposed in November, on Russia's track and field team for a "systematic and deeply-rooted culture of doping."

The International Olympic Committee said Saturday it "fully respects" the decision and acknowledged that the IAAF has control over the eligibility of track and field athletes for the games.

The statement appeared to rule out any chance of the IOC intervening to overturn or water down the decision or somehow give the Russians another route into the games.

The IOC went even further, saying it would undertake "further far-reaching measures in order to ensure a level playing field for all the athletes" competing in Rio. It said the meeting would discuss the situation of countries that are not in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency's global rules.

US: Facing Argentina, Messi in Copa semis not overwhelming

HOUSTON (AP)—American players maintained over and over that playing Argentina and Lionel Messi in a Copa America semifinal on Tuesday night was a big deal, yet not mind-boggling.

Top-ranked Argentina is a two-time World Cup champion and Messi is the only five-time FIFA Player of the Year. While no longer a soccer neophyte, the United States knows it remains a distance from the top tier.

"There's a bunch of very good players on their team. We have a few good players, as well," U.S. captain Michael Bradley said Monday. "Sure, on paper they're the team that everybody thinks is going to win. No problem. But ultimately when that whistle blows it's still 90 minutes of competition."

After winning its group, the U.S. beat Ecuador 2-1 to reach a semifinal outside its region for the first time since 2009, when it upset Spain 2-0 in the Confederations Cup semis before wasting a two-goal lead in the final and losing to Brazil 3-2.

It's not the World Cup, but reaching the final of this expanded 100th anniversary Copa America would be a major achievement for a 31st-ranked U.S. team questioned by its growing fan base after it failed to win last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"We want to take the game to them, as well. We want to keep a high line. We want to go eye to eye," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said. "In order to grow, you need to go through some pain and you need to try things out. You need to risk. And when you risk things, here and there you get a lesson."

While the U.S. is now alongside Mexico as a power in North and Central America and the Caribbean, qualifying for seven straight World Cups, it is 12-43-15 in games against former World Cup champions,

AP
U.S. men's soccer coach Jurgen Klinsmann talks to reporters during a Copa America Centenario news conference, Monday, June 20, 2016, in Houston. The United States is scheduled to face Argentina in a Tuesday semifinal.

including 3-18-1 competitive matches. It is in the Copa America semifinals for the first time since 1995.

"We were nobody in the world. We started in the '90s and we had to inch our way up," retired defender Marcelo Balboa said. "Back then, we changed our game plan to play against teams. Now they stick to their game plans, but they're aware of the two or three threats that can do some damage."

And there's no bigger threat than Messi, who has four Champions League and eight La Liga titles with Barcelona but who has not won any championships with Argentina's senior team, which is seeking its first major trophy since 1993.

Messi, who turns 29 on Friday, is nicknamed "La Pulga" for his speed and unmatched dribbling ability. He wanders from midfield to the front line, drifts from the left flank to the right and often cuts from the right to the center. He has not scored in three previous matches against the U.S.

"You say you want to get pressure on Messi and not let him have time on the ball. How do you do that?" U.S. defender Matt Besler said. "Even when guys step up to him and are right on him, he finds a way to wiggle out of something, and then he's able to get his head up and play in some of those balls that he's played in this tournament. And so it's a huge challenge, probably the biggest challenge for us as a defensive unit."

Klinsmann will be forced to make changes because of suspensions to midfielders Jermaine Jones and Alejandro Bedoya, and forward Bobby Wood. Kyle Beckerman appears likely to replace Jones, with Graham Zusi, Chris Wondolowski, Darlington Nagbe and 17-year-old Christian Pulisic the top candidates for the other two slots. Right back DeAndre Yedlin returns from his one-game suspension.

Lakhan visits Tonga for updates on 2019 Pacific Games

Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan, accompanied by PGC executive director Andrew Minogue, is in Nuku'alofa to assess the state of preparations for Tonga's hosting of the 2019 Pacific Games.

During his visit, Lakhan attended a meeting of the Tonga 2019 Audit & Governance Authority, chaired by the Prime Minister of Tonga, the Hon. 'Akilisi Pohiva, and the group once again said the Tongan Government expressed its full support for hosting the 2019 Pacific Games.

Lakhan also received extensive briefings from the staff of the Tongan Pacific Games Organising Committee (TPGOC) on the development of the sports and marketing programs and the general organizational planning for the 2019 Pacific Games. He then met with the full Executive Committee of TPGOC, chaired by Lord Fred Sevele.

Lakhan talked to the full Executive Committee of the host Pacific Games Association for the 2019 Pacific Games, the Tongan Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (TASA) to impress upon them the need to develop their athletes and officials over the next three years to deliver a strong Team Tonga at the Games.

The PGC head also met separately with leaders of the Tongan National Federations, whose sports are on the 2019 Pacific Games program, and will have responsibility for conducting Games competitions with technical officials and sports volunteers.

During the visit, Lakhan undertook a comprehensive tour of the proposed Games venues at the grounds of Tonga High School, the Nuku'alofa waterfront, and the Teufaiva Stadium.

In summarizing his visit, Lakhan said "the Pacific Games Council is pleased that the Honorable Prime Minister is now involved in overseeing the Tongan Government's commitment to hosting the 2019 Pacific Games and providing the necessary facilities and funding support to stage a successful Games.

"Progress was evident in the development of the Games Master Plan. Last year, my Executive Board endorsed the BECA Master Plan, and I support some of the modifications to this Master Plan that were presented to the Audit & Governance Authority meeting this week by Tongan Government representatives, particularly the additional playing field and warm-up facility at the Police Training compound adjacent to the Teufaiva Stadium."

Lakhan recommended that the original Master Plan for Tennis and Lawn Bowls facilities at the nearby Tonga High School be retained.

"These actions will maintain the commitment to the 'Walking Games' concept, where the majority of the Games venues are located in the main population center of Nuku'alofa and within walking distance of its schools which will house the Games athletes," the PGC president said.

"This is the key to ensuring that after the Games, the venues are easily accessible to the future youth of Tonga, leaving positive legacies which justify the investment in the 2019 Pacific Games. I am pleased to note the progress in seeking donor government support for delivering on the Games Master Plan," he added.

ASPAC

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Series set for July 26 to Aug. 2 in Easley, South Carolina.

With the Commonwealth missing a stint in the ASPAC, its bid to return to the World Series has to wait for another year. The last time the CNMI Big League All-Stars play in the world stage was in 2008. Last year, Saipan hosted the typhoon-shortened ASPAC with many-time World Series qualifier Chinese-Taipei declared the eventual winner after earning the best record in pool play. Chinese-Taipei and Guam were supposed to play in last year's finals, but the title game was called off due to Tropical Storm Chan-Hom.

Meanwhile, both Ada and Murig assured that the CNMI Major, Junior, and Senior League All-Stars are all set for their respective competitions.

The Majors crew will leave first as their World Series qualifier will take place from June 24 to July 2 in Seoul, South Korea. Up next will be the CNMI Junior League All-Stars, which will head to Taiwan for the June 28 to July 3 competition. The Commonwealth's Senior League squad, which is the back-to-back champion in the ASPAC, will go for its third straight World Series stint when its plays in the Philippines from July 10 to 17.

CNMI

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the Blue Ayuyus will meet Chinese-Taipei, Macau, and Mongolia. Host Guam is not playing in the competition, as it automatically qualified to the second round, which is set for November this year.

To prepare for their Round 1 games in Guam, the CNMI men's crew will have three training matches in the PH, beginning with their June 23 duel against Agila/Ateneo FC at the Gatorade-Chelsea Blue Pitch. Then, the following day, the Blue Ayuyus will face Nine FC of Malaysia at the Clark Development Parade Grounds, while on June 25, Sekiguchi's wards will take on Kaya FC at the Emperador Stadium.

Meanwhile, the CNMI women's squad had their first training match yesterday and they lost to Nomad FC U17, 1-2, while the team's last two will be against Ateneo University tomorrow and versus Chlesea FC Women's on June 25.

NMIFA brought 22 female players to the Philippines for the squad's separate training camp. The list includes Mary Kay Alferos, Chevy Kate Alipio, Sarah Allen, Carla Ballesteros, Guinevere Borja, Angelica Carreon, Jeraldine and Jeralyn Castillo, Elaine Enriquez, Renita Fleming, Marielle Gariguez, Bernadette Horey, Taylor Knecht, De Jana Muna, Dianne Pablo, Gabrielle Race, Lyla Sally, Chloe Salvosa, Krizel Tuazon, Mikky Vargas, Alexandria Vergara, and Gillian Villagomez. Olympian Luam Khen Koo is the head coach and will be assisted by Jacky Lee and goalkeeper mentor Jimmy Tang. Angie Ito is the team manager.

The Commonwealth's female players will be up against Guam and Macau in the EAFF tournament later this month and the final 18-player roster is expected to be announced once the PH camp is completed.

POJC

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after finishing in the Top 4 of their respective singles competition in the regional tournament Saipan hosted last week.

Schorr topped the boys U14 singles, while Song, Kim, and Lee were ranked second to fourth. Miyawaki ruled the girls U14 singles after beating Raulerson in the finals, while Conatsu and Gregoire rounded out the Top 4. Woo and Paik gave the CNMI the No. 2 and 3 finishes in the boys U12 singles, while Coume reigned supreme in the girls division, and Lopez placed fourth. Ren was the runner-up in the boys U16 singles, while Tudela came in at third.

Carol Lee, Isabel Heras, and Tania Tan will join the 14 qualifiers in the POJC, as they gained automatic slots in the tournament after their strong performance in the same competition last year. The three Commonwealth bets will be playing in the girls U16 singles and with their outright entry to the North Pacific Team, Grace Choi and Mimi Sakano, who finished second and third in last week's contest, missed the cut. Sunshine Palik of the Federated States of Micronesia took the last slot on the North's U16 girls crew after winning over Choi in the finals last weekend.

With the CNMI spearheading the North Pacific Team and being beefed up by the top players from Guam, Palau, and FSM, Commonwealth coach Jeff Race believed the squad will perform well in POJC.

"We have a great North Pacific Team and there will be quality competitions in the U14 and U16 singles and doubles," Race said.

"I am glad we have CNMI players competing in the boys U16 in POJC this year. They did well in the North Pacific qualifying and I hope they will continue to improve when they play in Fiji," the CNMI coach added.

2016 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League Playoffs

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GPPC's Randy Mungcal pulls up for a jumper against T Galleria defenders during their playoff match in the 2016 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CHCC's Edwin Camacho drives against Pacific Islands Club's Raymark Castro.

Pacific Islands Club's Nathan Flores unloads a point-blanked shot against DFEMS defenders.

T Galleria's Marino Hiroichi, second left, beats GPPC's Gerald Laguimdan, left, for the rebound.

IT&E's Angelo Fernando stops and pops for a jumper against T Galleria's Ricardo Dela Cruz, right, and Ivan Devero.

T Galleria's Elmer Esdreon tries to hang on to the loose ball.

CHCC's Tony Raho towers above four Pacific Islands Club players.

DFEMS' Marvin Rabauliman, left, grabs the rebound against Pacific Islands Club's Mike Arciaga.

MJD Enterprises' Matt Duenas pulls up for a shot.

Off the plane but still sky-high, LeBron brings title home

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Sports

Kershaw dominates again as Dodgers beat Nats

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CNMI gears up for EAFF tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI men's and women's national football teams are now in the Philippines for the final stage of their preparations for the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2017 Round 1.

The two squads left early Monday morning and will have a training camp at Global Clark, Pampanga, in the northern part of the PH, until June 26 in time for the EAFF competition, which will run from June 29 to July 4 at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

Twenty-one players on the men's team are attending the week-long training camp in the Philippines. Goalkeeper Johann Noetzel led the list and is joined by Christopher Aninzo, Evan Belcher, Jordan Butcher, Enrico Del Rosario, Trey Dunn, James Ermitanio, Joel Fruit, Michah Griffin, Alan Hinson, Kennedy Izuka, Hunter Jewell, Jehn Joyner, Darin Keizer, Lucas Knecht, Peter Loken, John Diego Masga, Joe Miller, Nick Swaim, Ryu Tanzawa, and Sunjoon Tenorio. Bo Barry was also included in the delegation, but missed the PH trip after sustaining an injury (ruptured Achilles) while training on Saipan early this month. He is now back in the mainland and will have to undergo an operation this weekend.

Barry and other off-island players reunited with their Saipan teammates mid last month for a series of intensive training sessions at the Oleai Sports Complex under the watchful eyes of CNMI coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi. Jersh Angeles is assisting Sekiguchi, while Taketomo Suzuki of Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) serves as the squad's goalkeeper coach. Completing the group's officials list is team manager Norman Del Rosario.

"While training on Saipan, we focused on individual techniques and physical training. Now, when we go to Philippines, we will have tactical training and test matches there," Sekiguchi said last Friday during the squad's last training session at the Oleai pitch.

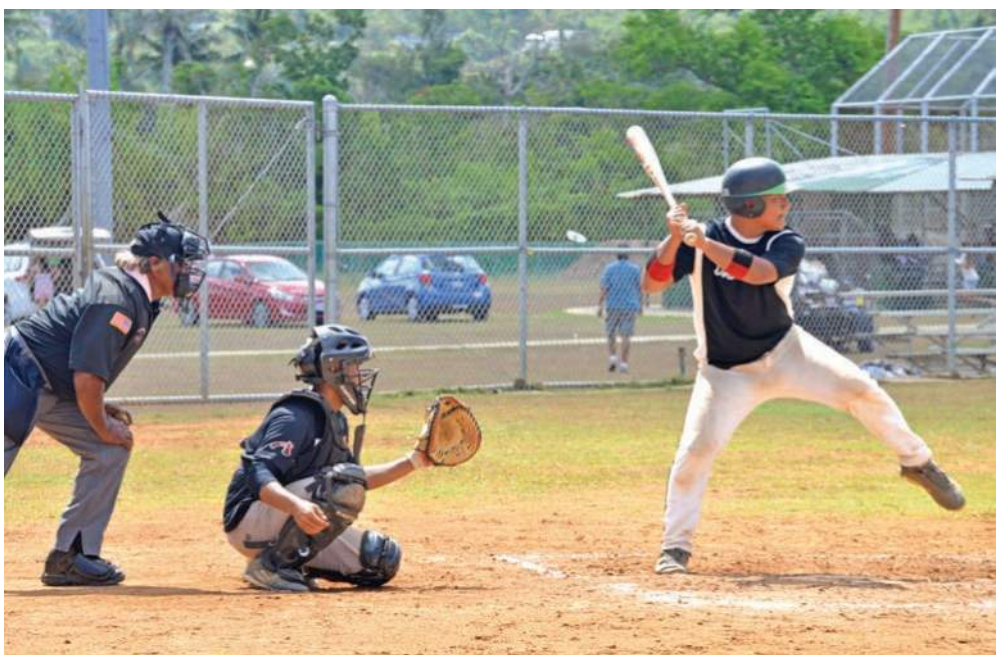
"I appreciate NMIFA's decision to allow us to have a camp in another country because it is hard to have games with a strong team on Saipan. The teams that we will play against in Guam for the EAFF tournament are all stronger than us. However, we will try our best to go to the second round," Sekiguchi added.

In the EAFF tournament,

See CNMI on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Lucas Knecht, second right, and Kennedy Izuka, right, chase the ball during their final training session at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Friday.

Big League All-Stars to miss ASPAC



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
An Islanders player gets ready to bat during their playoff game against the Braves in the Big League division of the SLLB early this month at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI will not have a representative in the Big League division of the 2016 Asia Pacific Regional Championships, which will be held in Nanjing, China next month, due to visa problems.

In a telephone interview yesterday, CNMI District Administrator James Ada said the Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc., which was tasked to form the Commonwealth team, decided not to send a squad because of lack of funding for visa payments. China, according to Ada, is charging $350 each for visa fees. SLLB coaches and the board earlier selected 16 players to suit up for the CNMI Big League All-Star Team and they were joined by three officials (manager, coach, and assistant coach).

SLLB president A.J. Murig, in a separate interview, confirmed the CNMI will not be playing in the Big League ASPAC, which will run from July 5 to 10 at the Dongshan Foreign Language School Ballpark. The winner in the six-day tournament will represent Asia Pacific in the World

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17 jr. tennis players to join POJC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With 14 junior players making the grade in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships, the CNMI will have 17 representatives to the 2016 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji in August.

Robbie Schorr, Ken Song, Tony Kim, Sean Lee, Malika Miyawaki, Asia Raulerson, Conatsu and Coume Kaga, Marie Gregoire, Ji Min Woo, Seung Jin Paik, Marielle Lopez, Michael Ren, and Vincent Tudela qualified for the POJC. They will suit up for the North Pacific Team

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Maria Gregoire goes for a backhand return during her and Asia Raulerson's girls U14 doubles game against the Federated States of Micronesia's Isabel Garcia and Anne Skilling in the 2016 North Pacific Regional Championships held last week at Kanoa Resort course.